

# HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, March 7, 2013

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## Family fortune

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## Scout tribute

Dedicated scoutmaster dies after lifetime service

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## Hockey heaven

Double victory for men's team clinches promotion

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## Bosses at Kristian's gym will fight on

BOSSSES at the Halesowen gymnastics club of Olympic medal-winner Kristian Thomas have vowed to fight to secure funding after losing a vital sports grant.

The news came after a proposed move to new premises fell through at the 11th hour to the surprise of officials.

Earls Gymnastics Club was to start work this week on an active health centre at the former Wheel Spin go-karting track in Dudley Road after receiving planning permission from Dudley Council.

The move from the club's existing home at Earls High School was described as critical to the club's future and was to be paid for by the £281,000 grant awarded by British Gymnastics in November.

But a breakdown in negotiations between the club and a prospective new landlord this week ended any chance of the 20-year lease being agreed – and sees the club lose the cash grant, which must be spent by the end of March.

Club chairman Jon Caulwell said the problems lay over an £80,000 deposit required for security of the site. He said: "It has been very very disappointing, we have literally been left at rock bottom at the very last moment. It is my job as chairman to start us up again, look for a new site and get chasing funding again."

## Fishing ban will be lifted

PLANS to lift a three-month fishing ban at a pool on the Dudley border have been lifted after it was claimed the three-month closed season at Great Pool, in Himley Park, is leading to illegal fishing.

Councillor Tracey Wood, agreed to lift the ban, generally operating between mid-March and mid-June, temporarily for this year.

Councillor Wood said the move would allow officials to evaluate the impact of allowing year-round fishing in the pool and what happens to the number of suspected thefts.

# TOWN'S RIVER TO GET BIG CLEAN-UP

by Sharon Marris

A BIG clean-up of the River Stour, which runs through Halesowen, is being planned by campaigners. The move comes in the wake of concerns that it has become a dumping ground for chemicals and filth.

They are appealing for ideas from local people about how to improve the river, which also flows through Stourbridge and into Kidderminster. The Birmingham and Black Country Wildlife Trust hopes to breathe new life into the river that gives its name to Stourbridge. Spokesman Pip Bradley said the Stour was suffering pollution caused by careless disposal of everything from washing machine detergents to car wash chemicals.

## Jobs at risk as hospital cuts laundry

UP TO 14 jobs are at risk under plans to axe the staff uniform laundry service as part of cost-cutting measures at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital, it has emerged.

Staff are being asked to wash their own uniforms instead as bosses bid to trim £15 million off their budgets by March next year.

It comes as up to 64 positions are also under threat as part of proposals to reduce the opening hours of the canteen. The proposal to axe the laundry service for staff uniforms will save the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust £63,000 per year.

Unison, which represents workers at the hospital, said up to 14 jobs could be under threat. The union's regional organiser Tracy Wood said: "We have been told they are looking to reduce the laundry staff and we are in consultation. It's very sad times and very hard for the workers whose jobs are under threat."

Interserve have confirmed a 30-day consultation was underway with laundry staff as well as the canteen workers but said it was too early to confirm exactly how many jobs would be lost.

Chief executive Paula Clark said: "The Trust has taken the decision to stop this laundry service from April 1. This brings The Dudley Group in line with many other NHS trusts."

● Charges – page 3

She said: "People tend to put anything down the sink and just assume it goes to the sewer when, most of the time, it is going into the surface water drains and into the local water ways."

"Some people will even put paint down the sink thinking it will go down the sewer. We get all sorts of nasty things go down there."

Miss Bradley said most of the tiny animals and bugs that lived in and beside the river were those that could cope with the pollution.

But she said: "We want to increase the number of species that are not tolerant of the pollution and to do that we need to improve the water quality."

### Economic

"Living along the river are a whole host of water birds who would also benefit from cleaner water."

The Stour, which has played a large part in the region's economic history, is a major tributary to the River Severn and is about 25 miles long.

Miss Bradley said it was this close link with industry which had seen it struggle with pollution.

She added: "It's quite an old river now and we weren't always so hot on pollution issues back then. It wasn't called the Black Country for nothing."

"But now we're trying to take care of these issues a lot more."

Miss Bradley said there was no public consultation event but thoughts on the river or its possible improvement can be sent to her via [pip.b@bbcwildlife.org.uk](mailto:pip.b@bbcwildlife.org.uk) or by phoning 0779 107 0991 before March 14. She will then produce a report based on the ideas and present this to the Environment Agency.

## Group grant that makes sense



Checking out some lights at the Ups & Downs Group at St Peter's Church, Halesowen are, from left, William Sagar, aged five, mother Jemma Sagar – who co-runs the group – and Harry Sagar, two

A HALESOWEN group which supports children with Down's Syndrome and their families has been awarded almost £5,000 for new toys and equipment.

Ups & Downs was awarded the £4,595.20 from Dudley Council.

Jemma Sagar, who runs the group along with Joanna Dutton, said she was thrilled when she found out her application had been successful.

Mrs Sagar, aged 33, of Lapal in Halesowen, said: "We haven't bought everything yet but so far the children love it. They have really enjoyed playing with some of the new toys."

Among the toys already bought are a sensory tent but there are plans to also buy other sensory toys, soft padding so the children don't hurt themselves and other specialist equipment.

Mrs Sagar hopes some of the toys to be bought for the group will keep the children entertained and amused.

The group already has bubble tubes, sensory blocks and messy play equipment for children to enjoy.

Ups & Downs, which meets every second Saturday, has just celebrated its 10-month anniversary and has about 40 families on its books but about 10 families regularly attend every month.

Mrs Sagar, who is mother to five-year-old William and two-year-old Harry who has Down's, said parents and their children had even come from Milton Keynes to be a part of Ups & Downs. Meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month at St Peter's Church, Hiaplads Road, Halesowen. The group also holds social events.

## Warning of tough times by councillor

THE boss of finance at Dudley Council is warning there are tough times ahead following the rubber-stamping of the council's budget.

Council tax will be frozen for a third year in a row under the Labour-proposed budget agreed on Monday – but savings of £27.5million over the next three years will need to be found.

Councillor Peter Lowe, said the cuts were in response to the 19 per cent reduction in funding from the Government over the next three years.

He said a decision to keep council tax frozen for a third year running was down to the current economic situation and a four-month consultation which involved more than 4,000 people.

Most people answering the consultation said they would pay more in their council tax – but 60 per cent said an increase should not be more than two per cent.

Councillor Lowe said: "We think in these hard economic times and having listened to the people of Dudley that a council tax freeze is by far the best option we can offer."

"Make no doubt, there are tough times ahead, but if we can continue to listen to the public and find ways to save money while, where possible keeping community assets, we will be pleased," he added.

## DNA scheme on burglars

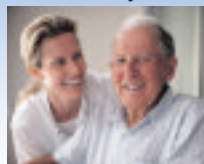
POLICE are leading a new scheme aimed at beating prolific burglars across Dudley.

They say the time has come to hit back at thieves who are breaking into homes and businesses to steal precious items.

Officers will visit victims and use a liquid to mark property and the entry to premises where burglars may force their way inside.

It brands items with an "DNA code", allowing police to link a suspect to the stolen items or raided property.

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## Almost 90 per cent get first school

CLOSE to nine out of 10 pupils in Dudley have landed their first-choice secondary school place this year.

Council chiefs said 89 per cent of pupils will get their first preference, which is an improvement on last year. Tens of thousands of children across the country have been finding out which school they will be going to in September.

The number of pupils being

offered their top choice school in Dudley has increased slightly from 88 per cent last year to 89 per cent this year.

For the 2013 year there were a total of 3,206 secondary applications – this was down on last year's figure of 3,258. Of those, around 2,853 have been offered their first choice for the September 2013 year. This compares to 2,867 applications last year.

Dudley Council spokesman Phil

Parker said this year 98 per cent of pupils received a place at one of their top three choice schools.

Meanwhile in Sandwell around 80 per cent of pupils will get their first preference.

For the 2013 year there were 4,503 secondary applications that included a Sandwell school as a preference. Of those, a total of 3,476 applications listed a Sandwell school as a first preference and of those,

2,743 were offered. This compares to 4,543 applications for the September 2012 year that included Sandwell school as a preference.

Of those, there were 3,699 first preferences for a place in a Sandwell school and out of those, 2,731 were offered – 73.83 per cent.

Figures released in October last year revealed that more than 3,000 parents in the Black Country and Staffordshire lodged appeals.

## Freeman honour will be bostin' says Lenny

COMEDIAN Lenny Henry said it was bostin' news to be granted the Freedom of Dudley borough – and the town still had a special place in his heart.

The popular star and Comic Relief campaigner will be formally presented with the honour later this year after

## Campaign joy as new medals to be awarded

A FUTURE Mayor of Dudley will be called on to present a batch of newly-created Second World War medals, under plans by veterans and families who campaigned for them.

The Ministry of Defence has unveiled a design for the Arctic Star medal for the men and women who served on the convoys taking supplies to Russia during the war.

The medals, which will begin to be sent out within weeks, were made in answer to a long campaign by veterans and their families for formal recognition for their work.

Widow Phyllis Coyle's husband Mick served as a stoker with the Royal Navy between 1942 and 1947, and sailed with four convoys to Russia. She said the medals should be presented at a formal occasion by a borough civic dignitary, such as the mayor.

Mrs Coyle, who paid for a memorial in tribute to the veterans at the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas, hopes it will be the next Mayor of Dudley.

Mrs Coyle, aged 84, of Dwernt Close, Pensnett, said: "I'm delighted we're finally getting the medal."

councillors agreed he should be recognised. The 54-year-old was awarded the Freeman honour despite claims he failed to give enough back to the town.

But Lenny, who was born near Buffery Park, attended Blue Coat School and often cites stories of growing up in Dudley during his stand up tours, stressed his credentials as he spoke of his delight at being awarded the honour.

"This is bostin' news," he said. "Since my beginnings in showbusiness in 1975, I have reserved a special place for Dudley in my heart."

"These Black Country thoughts have helped me to endure through good times and bad."

## Permeated

"Memories of Buffery Park and Douglas Road, Constitution Hill and Hall Street and the canal tunnel and my best friends have permeated my stand-up routines and writing."

"Dudley is a touchstone to me and I hope that comes across in my work."

"Thank you to everyone who voted for me and big love and respect to all my siblings and all my family and friends who still abide in Dudley. I think you're all great."

His most recent show in the town came in May 2011 as part of his Cradle to Rave tour which was based around much of his early life and career. He recalled nights in the Queen Mary ballroom disco in the grounds of Dudley Zoo with a DJ called Oscar Michael, where he first took to the stage to impersonate Elvis.

## Pupils plant for park's future



Teacher Liz Cole and Justin Corfield, from Dudley Council's Green Care, with pupils from Lutley Primary School who helped to plant trees which will form an avenue

PUPILS have helped plant a new generation of trees in a Halesowen park creating a feature for visitors.

When fully-grown, it is hoped the trees will create an avenue inside Huntingtree Park at the Thornhill Road entrance.

The Year 5 pupils from Lutley Primary School were invited to take part by mem-

bers of The Friends of Huntingtree Park group. Group members say the lime and hornbeam trees, which border the path to entrance, are among a range of improvements planned.

The children were also given information packs about the trees by Dudley council Green Care staff.

## Lovers are sentenced to life for murder

A VICE girl and her boyfriend have been jailed for life for the torture and murder of a businessman for his money.

Judge Simon Tonking jailed Emma Bate and Paramjit Singh for the murder of former Stourbridge businessman Richard Sherratt.

Bate and Singh killed the 57-year-old father-of-three during a midnight robbery at his home in Bridgnorth.

The raid was planned by Bate to raise cash to pay off debts run up because of her drug addiction.

Mr Sherratt, who used to live in Kinver and Stourbridge, died within an hour of the attack. He suffered 38 injuries, including five blows to the head, a stab wound to his arm and puncture marks to his face and neck.

Judge Tonking told Bate she would serve a minimum of 25 years for the murder, and Singh was ordered to serve at least 18 years. They were also given 10 years, each to run concurrently, for robbery.

Mr Tonking told the pair: "Having left Richard Sherratt injured on his bed surrounded by his own blood, both of you were indifferent about his fate."

## Yeltz snaps on display

PROMOTION-chasing Halesowen Town are trying to catch the eye off the field as well.

Throughout March, the club's official photographer Steve Evans – father of goal-keeper Paul – has a selection of his Yeltz photographs on show in the library at Halesowen Cornbow Centre.

There is also a collection of stock from the club shop. The library opens from 9am-7pm Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm on Saturdays and 10am-2pm on Sundays. Visit [www.ht-fc.com/matchday-a-news/latest-news/2473-yeltz-on-display.html](http://www.ht-fc.com/matchday-a-news/latest-news/2473-yeltz-on-display.html).

## Plans for office

PLANS to convert a vacant office block in Dudley into flats will go before councillors next week.

Regal Invest LLP has submitted proposals for Nexia House in The Broadway.

The scheme will be discussed by the development control committee on March 11.

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## Calls for chapel to be bigger

COUNCIL funding to improve Stourbridge Crematorium has been welcomed – but ward councillors say they still want more to be done.

At a full Dudley Council meeting, members agreed to a proposed capital funding budget, which included £68,000 to be spent on bringing the crematorium up to current standards.

The work will see Dudley Council, the crematorium's operator, upgrade equipment and refurbish the chapel.

But Councillor Elizabeth Walker said more needed to be spent on increasing the capacity of the chapel to stop people having to stand outside during services. She said: "It is extremely difficult to address the whole assembly at a funeral when many people are stood outside."

"We really need to look at increasing the capacity, as well as the work planned."

Councillor David Caunt said: "It has been my misfortune to visit a services at Stourbridge Crematorium."

"It strikes me that the money put forward is not enough – this is a big project. I wonder if we could create more space within the chapel."

## New service for housing

A NEW housing support service has been set up for residents in Dudley. The council's housing department is running a drop-in service.

In Halesowen sessions are held at the Hope Centre, Block 11, Andrew Road, Halesowen on Wednesdays from 10am until noon. In Brierley Hill at the housing office, Yeovil Court, Brierley Hill on Thursday from 10am until noon. In Stourbridge sessions are held at Stourbridge Library, Market Street, Stourbridge on Thursdays from 1.30pm until 3.30pm.

## Talking dramas

A WORLD famous playwright will be coming to a village near Stourbridge to talk about one of his latest plays.

David Edgar, aged 65, will talk to Belbroughton History Society at the village's church hall on March 20, starting at 8pm. One of his most recent works is called *Written on the Heart*. Admission to the event is £2.50.

# Russells Hall parking fees to rise in cutbacks

PARKING charges will rise and canteen opening hours will be slashed as part of cost-cutting measures at Dudley's three hospitals.

Staff will also be asked to wash their uniforms at home rather than use the hospital trust's laundry service, which is being axed. Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which runs the sites, including Russells Hall Hospital, needs to save £15 million by March 2014.

Bosses say proposals to increase car park fees will bring in more than £300,000 a year, which can be spent on clinical services.

It means from April it will cost £5.50 to park for more than three hours – up from £5.40.

Free parking time has been cut from 30 to 10 minutes and it will now cost £1 to park for up to 30 minutes, when previously there had been no charge.

Under the plans, parking for up to an hour will be increased to £2 from £1.30.

The fee for up to one and a half hours will be £3 – up from £1.90 and the cost of parking for up to three hours will rise to £4 from £3.20.

Parking fees were last increased in

August 2011. Chief executive Paula Clark said: "We do not take decisions to increase charges to patients lightly and this brings the cost of our parking in line with many other trusts locally."

Plans to scale-back the canteen opening hours at Russells Hall, including closing it at weekends, will save the hospital trust £110,000 per year.

Staff are being consulted on the move which has put up to 64 jobs at risk.

Union bosses have spoken out against the move and have vowed to work the hospital to "minimise job losses". Hospital

bosses say the move follows a reduction in customers. Under the proposals, the canteen would only be open between 7am and 2.30pm Monday to Friday.

It is currently open between 7am and 8pm each day. The Costa Coffee branch will not be affected by the changes.

Ms Clark said: "Any decisions to reduce services or facilities that we provide are very difficult to make but, as our commitment to providing the highest standard of care for patients remains our highest priority, we feel it is better to make savings from non clinical services."

# Increased charges at hospital are attacked as just greedy

**COUNCILLORS in Dudley have attacked the planned rises in car park charges at Russells Hall Hospital as greedy.**

Charges will go up at the site from April in a move aimed at bringing in more than £300,000 a year.

Labour councillor Bryan Cotterill, who has campaigned to keep the car parking free of charge, said the proposals were "absolutely appalling and immoral".

The Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood councillor said: "People don't go to hospital for the joy of it. They go because they're poorly or to visit someone who is poorly. "I can see no justification for these charges apart from greed."

"We live in a greedy and selfish society."

Councillor Cotterill was a patient at the hospital in January and said the charges his visitors had to pay left him "fuming".

### Profit

He said he would like to hear from hospital car park managers how much profit it makes from the car park "because this is just hurting people when they're at their lowest".

The proposals were announced this week as part of wider plans by Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust to save £15 million in 2014-15.

Dudley Council leader David Sparks said: "The council has no control over the issue but we have to deal with the problem of people being driven out of hospital

**by Sharon Marris**

car parks on to neighbouring streets and roads."

Trust chief executive Paula Clark said: "We do not take decisions to increase charges to patients lightly and this brings the cost of our parking in line with many other trusts locally."

Councillor Cotterill added: "I realise there should perhaps be some charge because the place still needs to be kept tidy and swept and the lighting maintained."

"This should be some means of standard token fee such as a 50p fee. I don't think anybody would mind that but these charges are just about making a profit."

Dudley Council leader David Sparks said car-parking charges at hospitals were "a national scandal".

There should be a national inquiry into this area as Russells Hall Hospital is just one of many that are constantly increasing their charges."

## Company is expanding

A BRIERLEY Hill company specialising in 4x4 and pick-up vehicle accessories has invested £250,000 in new manufacturing space and will create 15 new jobs as a result.

Auto Styling Truckman has taken two units at Hurst Business Park, Pedmore Road, near its current 12,000 sq ft base.

The units, which are on a 10-year lease, will provide 15,000 sq ft of manufacturing space where the company will make its Truckman branded pick-up hardtops.



Senior valuer Mark Hannam with the statue which could sell for at least £20,000

## Hope of £20,000 on statue

A DUDLEY auctioneers says a lead statue fund in undergrowth in a garden may fetch as much as £20,000.

Antiques expert Mark Hannam, senior valuer at Fieldings auctioneers, Stourbridge, told of the "heart-stopping moment" when he found it in undergrowth in a North Worcestershire family's garden.

The 4ft tall, Georgian-style one-and-a-half-ton statue – called Dryad and Boar – was bought by the family in the 1960s for £200 but Mr Hannam values it at £4,000-£6,000 and says it may well fetch up to £20,000.

It bears the stamp of the Bromsgrove Guild, an arts movement of skilled craftsmen, and depicts a boy hunter attacking a wild boar.

When the owner of the detached country home, between Bromsgrove and Worcester, died in November, Mr Hannam went to the site and made the find, to be auctioned at Fieldings on March 9.

The Bromsgrove Guild, founded by Walter Gilbert in 1898, was based on principles of the Arts and Crafts movement.

Other works include the statue of Hygieia at Chequers, the Prime Minister's country residence.

## NEWS in brief

### Weapons found with drugs in raid

A CANNABIS factory, samurai sword, knuckle duster and gas-powered firearm was found as a home was raided over suspected animal cruelty.

Six dogs were taken away by the RSPCA from The Broadway, Dudley. A 31-year-old was arrested and bailed for further investigations.

Pc Ian Priest said suspected drugs and three offensive weapons had been seized.

Anyone suspecting drug use or suspicious activity should call police on 101.

### Volunteers to aid hospice sought

A RECRUITMENT drive for volunteers to help provide valuable care for patients at Kemp Hospice in Kidderminster has been launched.

The hospice has recently expanded to provide bereavement support for adults and children living in the Wyre Forest district. Now qualified therapists are being sought to give help in their spare time to the day hospice.

Anyone wanting more information on the services can call 01562 756000.

### MP is backing metal theft law

WYRE Forest MP Mark Garnier has backed plans for new laws aimed at reducing the scourge of metal theft which is growing throughout the district, and nationally.

He has welcomed the Scrap Metal Dealers Bill which has passed its final reading in the House of Commons and which is expected to come into effect by Easter, once it receives Royal Assent.

### Luxury homes work is started

CONSTRUCTION work for 14, five-bedroomed executive homes has begun on a former reservoir site.

The 4.1 acre site at Sutton Park Road, Kidderminster has been sold by Severn Trent Water to leading housebuilding David Wilson Homes Merica.

### Man is hurt in fall

A MAN suffered serious injuries through falling from a roof in Halesowen. The man, believed to be in his 20s, fell in Long Lane. He had a fractured leg and suspected fractured pelvis.



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## NEWS

## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



AN AUSTRALIAN billionaire, Clive Palmer, has unveiled plans to build a new liner identical to the ill-fated Titanic. Rumour has it the Canadians are working on a replica iceberg.

□□□□□□□□

TWENTY years from now, with a power cut every day, our seas fished to extinction and our sovereignty eroded to the state where young British men are conscripted into an EU army to fight in Africa, our grandchildren will ask, what were the politicians doing back in 2013? And we will have to tell them that instead of planning for the future or looking after this nation's interests, they were spending an awful lot of time trying to find out whether a lord had put his hand on a lady's leg.

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SPOT the difference. A reporter who exposes your political enemy as a bounder is an investigative journalist in the finest traditions of the profession. A reporter who exposes scandal in your own political party is, if I may quote Nick Clegg, "a self-appointed detective." As a general rule, beware of any politician who says: "I believe in a free Press," and then adds the word "but."

□□□□□□□□

WAG! the magazine of the Dogs Trust, has a feature in its Spring edition on preparing tasty meals for pooches. It is headlined: The Great British Bark Off.

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ANYONE who did National Service will recognise the process by which the Pope is being eased out of the Vatican. It is Benedict's demob day, the moment when he hands in all the kit that goes with uniformed service and picks up a new thirty-bob suit to see him into civvy street. "Right, your Holiness. Sign here for one cloak (white), one hat (ex-papal) and one pair brogues (leather, brown). Oi, Mr Emeritus! Where d'you think you're going with them red shoes?"

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star**

# Family admit to cruelty over neglected horses

A FAMILY of three has admitted cruelty to four horses in Dudley in what the RSPCA has described as "a serious case of neglect".

The mother, father and their son were accused of more than 50 charges in relation to horses being kept at Fens Pool Nature Reserve in Pensnett, Brierley Hill. Walter Hickman, aged 52, admitted 20 charges while his wife Amanda, aged 49, admitted 16. Their son Kevin, aged 23, pleaded guilty to 18 charges. A further four charges were later dropped by the RSPCA.

## Road part open now

A ROAD in Stourbridge closed after a landslide on Christmas Eve will be partially reopened within two weeks.

Dudley Council was forced to shut Red Hill after a wall collapsed causing piles of earth to fall on the road and block the route. Work has since been carried out to the retaining wall and officers hope to reopen one lane of the affected stretch on March 11.

The work involves shoring the bank, which runs along the end of gardens in Margaret Drive, with wooden rakes and will cost £10,000.

At a recent full council meeting, Councillor Judy Foster, said officers were working with nearby residents on the scheme. A meeting was held with residents in Cranbourne Road, one of the streets impacted by a diversion.

Councillor Ray Burston said: "I am pleased to hear that the council has received the funds for essential work."

Full details about the case have yet to emerge in court but charges reveal the trio, of Wallows Road in Brierley Hill, were accused of causing unnecessary suffering to four horses between them.

The horses had been kept at Fens Pool Nature Reserve between November 2 and December 22, in 2011.

Amanda and Kevin Hickman appeared at Dudley Magistrates' Court on February 26 for trial but at the last minute they entered guilty pleas.

Walter Hickman was unable to attend because he had been taken to hospital during the weekend. All three were bailed unconditionally while a pre-sentence report is prepared.

They will be sentenced on March 20.



One of the horses that was badly neglected at Fens Pool Nature Reserve



Amanda Hickman admitted 16 charges



Kevin Hickman admitted 18 charges

## Society in return to national lending

DUDLEY Building Society has returned to nationwide lending with the launch of a variety of new offers for home owners and buyers.

The society based, in Stone Street, had imposed geographical lending, restricting products to local customers. This has now been lifted as it looks to increase mortgage lending.

The offers include the Dudley's new two-year discounted rate deal at 2.29 per cent.

Maximum loan to value is 75 per cent and an arrangement fee of £995 is payable.

The discounted rate is available for both home purchase and remortgage - with the added attraction of free legal fees and free valuation for borrowers who want to remortgage.

Dudley Building Society chief executive Jeremy Wood said: "Up until relatively recently, we were a little concerned that we did not want to be flooded out and deal with large volumes, but the market has changed significantly."

## Prescriptions up

PRESCRIPTION charges in Dudley will rise 20p to £7.85 under changes announced by the Government. The 2.5 per cent rise starts April 1.

Health Minister Earl Howe said NHS dental charges will also increase on the same date. Those exempt from charges in England include children under 16.




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25th - 29th	EXCLUSIVE RESORT OF SANDBANKS	£319.50
29th - 1st Apr	EASTER IN PARIS & MONET GARDEN	£259.50
APRIL 1st - 5th	LINCOLNSHIRE DELIGHTS	£249.50
2nd - 6th	ISLE OF WIGHT	£279.50
8th - 12th	WESTON-SUPER-MARE	£249.50
8th - 12th	ENCHANTING EASTBOURNE	£269.50
10th - 14th	REGENCY SIDMOUTH - JURASSIC COAST	£345.00
14th - 18th	DUBLIN, WICKLOW, RIVER & RAIL	£379.50
15th - 18th	NORTHUMBRIAN COAST	£225.00
15th - 19th	CORNWALL'S ST IVES	£259.50
20th - 21st	SOMERSET STEAM RAILWAY	£119.50
20th - 21st	SOUTHAMPTON'S TITANIC STORY	£109.50
22nd - 26th	OBAN & THE ISLE OF MULL	£319.50
27th - 28th	TOWER OF LONDON & HAMPTON COURT	£135.00
29th - 3 May	SOUTHPORT & BLACKPOOL	£299.50
29th - 3 May	TORQUAY	£249.50
MAY 3rd - 5th	SPALDING FLOWER SHOW	£159.50
6th - 10th	FLORAL HARRIGATE	£355.00
6th - 10th	SOUTHDOWN-ON-SEA	£275.00
11th - 12th	SCENIC SETTLE - CARLISLE RAILWAY	£119.50
11th - 12th	ROYAL SANDRINGHAM HOUSE	£109.50

**GREAT DAYS OUT**

DATE	TOUR	PRICE
MARCH 12th	MORETON-IN-MARSH MARKET	£22.00
14th	BICESTER VILLAGE DESIGNER OUTLET	£20.00
18th	NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM	£20.00
19th	TETBURY & AVEBURY MANOR (NT)	£31.00
20th	OXFORD & FULL AFTERNOON TEA	£39.50
22nd	BLETCHLEY PARK & GUIDED TOUR	£37.00
23rd	HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT	£36.00
24th	CHATSWORTH HOUSE & GARDENS	£36.00
25th	WELSH HIGHLAND RAILWAY	£37.50
APRIL 2nd	COTSWOLDS VILLAGES SPLENDOUR	£23.00
3rd	PORTMEIRION & SCENIC SNOWDONIA	£35.00
4th	MANCHESTER UTD STADIUM TOUR	£39.50
5th	CARPHILL CASTLE & MONMOUTH	£29.50
7th	TOWER OF LONDON	£43.00
8th	EVESHAM SPRING BLOSSOM TRAIL	£23.00
9th	ROYAL GREENWICH HERITAGE SITE	£26.00
19th	WADDESDON MANOR TULIP FESTIVAL	£39.50
20th	RAIS SPRING FLOWER SHOW CARDIFF	£34.00
23rd	BRECON MOUNTAIN STEAM RAILWAY	£32.50
24th	ROSS ON WYE & RIVER CRUISE	£35.00
25th	MIDSOMER MURDERS COUNTRY	£25.00
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## New rights on bids for buildings

COMMUNITY and voluntary groups will have the right to bid to takeover council-owned buildings and land in Dudley, under new plans to give residents a say in how their communities are run.

A register of properties or available assets such as youth or community centres will be held by the council.

Organisations will be able to put together a business plan for leasing the properties. Council leader David Sparks said the proposals would enable residents to have a bigger role in how their communities are run.

There also plans for the council to keep a list of privately owned sites.

Under the Localism Act 2011, groups will have the right to bid for the property.

Councillor Sparks said: "It's all about giving people more influence on what is happening in their community."

Councillor Gaye Partridge, added: "The community asset transfer programme offers the chance to manage council owned property. The second scheme, assets of community value, gives a legal right to bid for publicly or privately owned buildings or land."

## Pc death hearing

AN inquest has been opened into the death of a Smethwick police officer who died after a disturbance outside a Wolverhampton bar. The coroner's court was told Pc Chris Findley died as a result of a brain injury after hitting his head on the pavement on January 28.

# Teacher given life ban over indecent images of children

**A TEACHER from Dudley has been banned from UK classrooms for life after being jailed for having hundreds of indecent images and videos of children on his computer.**

Gregory Worwood taught history at St Edmund's Catholic School, Wolverhampton where he was arrested in September 2011. The 26-year-old, of Himley Road, Dudley, was jailed for 18 months and told to sign the sex offenders register for 10 years last July.

Now Education Secretary Michael Gove has backed a recommendation from a Teaching Agency disciplinary panel that Worwood, formerly of Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton, should be struck off.

## Concern over stray horses

STRAY horses, known as fly grazers, roaming the region could be ending up in the food chain claim farmers.

The concerns were announced on the same day that furniture giant Ikea announced it is withdrawing wiener sausages in Britain, France, Spain, Ireland and Portugal after tests confirmed "a few indications of horse meat".

Farming bosses have now called for stricter control on "shambolic" horse passport regulations in the wake of the horse meat scandal and Tesco announced it will source more of its meat from the UK. The move comes two days after it withdrew Swedish meatballs from stores across Europe, Asia and the Caribbean.

Farmers are concerned the horses, known as fly grazers, are being shipped across the border to abattoirs on the continent using forged passports.

There are worries these fly grazers could include horses that are left to roam on land, or are tethered, in Tipton. Sandwell councillor Derek Rowley said: "There are foals in Tipton and when they are six months old they mysteriously go missing, and they have done for years."

Mr Gove said: "This is clearly a very serious case and one which shows Mr Worwood has very seriously breached the standard of behaviour expected of a teacher. It is in the public interest that Mr Worwood be prohibited from teaching. Moreover, in the light of the seriousness of the offences, there should be no review period."

The decision means Worwood is banned from teaching indefinitely in any school, sixth form college, relevant youth accommodation or children's home in England, although he has a right of appeal to the High Court.

### Serious

Wolverhampton Crown Court was told last July that Worwood uploaded some images and movies on to a file-sharing website. He had more than 700 images and movies of children, with 15 films classed as the most serious category. He had pleaded guilty to nine charges of possessing indecent images and one of distribution.

Passing sentence, Judge Martin Walsh told him: "You had absolutely no control over where the images went. They are images of real children being subjected to real abuse." None of the images or films involved pupils from St Edmund's.

The Teaching Agency disciplinary panel has also published its findings into the case, saying: "Mr Worwood, in behaving in this way, fell far below the personal and professional standards the public expect teachers to observe. By behaving as he did, Mr Worwood has undermined public confidence in the profession."

## The text message millionaires



Robin and Christine Kiddie celebrate winning £6,299,421

IT was a simple text message which told the family of Cradley Heath sales manager Robin Kiddie that they were millionaires.

In fact it had won £6.3 million on the National Lottery.

Mr Kiddie, a commercial and export sales manager at Cradley Heath company Kingfisher Industrial, said he was still trying to get his head around the huge win.

The 60-year-old and his wife Christine were officially unveiled as jackpot winners - and revealed plans to splash out on a Mercedes.

The pair, who live in Ludlow, Shropshire, won £6,299,421 in the February 22 draw. The couple, who won the cash as part of a six-strong family syndicate, picked their numbers through a combination of birthdays and old pools numbers. They did not realise they had won the jackpot until the following Monday.

Mr Kiddie then sent a text to his children stating: "Good news, I have just won £6.3 million on the lottery."

Mr Kiddie has said he now plans to retire, while Mrs Kiddie is yet to decide whether she will continue to work as a bank nurse at Ludlow Hospital.

## NEWS in brief

### Start of parking scheme in town

A NEW parking scheme which has been introduced in Brierley Hill High Street aims to reduce traffic delays, the borough's transport boss said.

Parking and waiting restrictions will come into force, marking the final stage of a congestion-busting multi-million pound scheme.

Four new bays allowing people to park along the street will be introduced.

Four separate disabled parking areas will also be created near Brierley Hill Police Station.

### Cricket student is now on board

A SPORTS coaching student from Stourbridge has been recruited by the Worcestershire County Cricket Board.

Katie Blunt, aged 20, will work as a cricket development coach. The third-year student at the University of Worcester will help create and run cricket coaching programmes to primary and secondary schools. Katie started coaching at 16, having practiced the sport from the age of seven.

### Legal changes on surveillance

CHANGES in legislation governing surveillance used by local authorities could thwart attempts by councils to clamp down on fly-tippers, Councillor Marcus Hart of Wyre Forest has warned.

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## NEWS FEATURE

## IN MY VIEW

WITH  
MARK  
ANDREWS

AT the moment our towns and cities need all the help they can get, so it is heartening to see that a vacant unit in one struggling town centre is about to be converted into a bistro.

And very nice it looks too. But given that the bistro in question is in the heart of the Black Country, I'm not too sure about the name.

The Crepe Station. Am I the only one who sees a problem with this?

□□□□□□□□

A SAD story about the couple who got divorced following a row about the wife's map-reading skills during a wine-tasting tour of France.

It makes you wonder whether, 50 years from now, golden wedding couples will be citing a good sat-nav system as the key to a long a happy marriage. Indeed, in today's technology-obsessed society, there are probably some who would consider their sat-nav to make the perfect spouse.

While it doesn't listen to you and gives out instructions in a hectoring tone, you can at least turn the sound off when it gets annoying.

And then, when you find your self lost in some farmer's field miles from where you are meant to be, you turn it back on, without having to admit it was right all along.

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FACED with the worst shop vacancy rate in the country, it is good to see that civic leaders in Dudley are fighting back.

Investing £150,000 in car parks sounds like good news, particularly given that some of the money will be spent on repairing potholes. Oh, and they will also benefit from "upgraded" pay-and-display machines.

New pay-and-display meters. That's sure to get the punters flocking back.

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LET'S get this right. Britain lost its AAA credit rating because the economy is riddled with debt. The Government is drowning in debt after years of living beyond its means, the general public is drowning in debt, with thousands of families struggling to meet their commitments. And the banks were drowning in debt until they were bailed out by the Government which is also drowning in debt.

But don't worry, the Bank of England has a radical solution. "Negative interest rates", in other words charging the banks (which we are financing) interest on their cash deposits (which belong to us) in order to encourage them to lend more of our money back to us, creating even more debt.

Sometimes there's a lot to be said for being a simple Black Country 'mon'.



George as a choirboy



George receiving a certificate of merit from Chief constable Edward Crew of West Midlands Police



George in the Royal Marines

# Scouts have lost an 'exceptional' leader

**George Cox MBE, who was dedicated to the Scouts, has died aged 89, HEATHER LARGE looks back over his life**

**TRIBUTES** have been paid to an "exceptional" scout leader who has died after more than five decades of service.

George Cox, who was awarded an MBE for his work in the community in Sedgley, was 89.

The former Royal Marine had worked tirelessly for 1st Sedgley Scout Group since the 1960s which included fundraising for a headquarters as members were using makeshift rented accommodation.

His dream became reality with the opening of a new building in 1977 and it is still used today by the scouts and other community groups, including 1st Sedgley Morris Men of which he was an honorary member.

Cox's Folly stands proud in the grounds in recognition of his legacy.

## Retiring

After retiring from scout leadership, he remained an active member of the Scout Active Support Unit and voluntary caretaker for Jubilee Scout Hall - the building he worked so hard to create.

Vice-chairman of 1st Sedgley Scout Group, David Baugh said: "Typically he could always be found behind the scenes or in the kitchen helping run events: bedding plant sales, Burns' nights, May fayres, coffee mornings and open nights. It gave him immense satisfaction to see the building well-maintained and being used by young and old."

In recognition to his commitment to Scouting, he was awarded the Medal of Meritorious Conduct by the Scout Association in 1985 and in 2003 the Silver Acorn for "distinguished service". In



David Baugh, vice-chairman of 1st Sedgley Scout Group and George Cox at Cox's Folly built in honour of him to carry on his legacy in the scouts

1993 Mr Cox researched and published a book on the history of 1st Sedgley Scout Group from 1910 and he planted a commemorative tree in the Scout grounds in 2007 to mark 100 years of Scouting.

Mr Cox was also a member of Sedgley Local History Society and in 2001 he responded to a national appeal by the Imperial War Museum for help in iden-

tifying and recording war memorials. George recruited volunteers to help and more than 60 previously unrecorded memorials have so far been identified in this ongoing exercise.

George has visited them all and painstakingly recorded every detail of their design, insignia and rolls of honour. In 1993 George accepted an invitation to serve as a Trustee to the

Museum of the Ancient Manor of Sedgley. His other community work included a long-standing role in the Neighbourhood Watch scheme and even at the age of 86 he was helping to take elderly residents to hospital appointments or to the Post Office to collect their pensions.

He would also a weekly run collecting and delivering groceries for the elderly or infirm.

George also developed the local area Neighbourhood Watch scheme into a community service which provided DIY to residents, home help for the elderly, a reputable traders directory and an emergency call-out list.

He also developed a road safety training scheme for youngsters and, arranged with the fire service to install smoke detectors into the homes of the elderly.

## Outstanding

In 2004 George became the first recipient of The Frank Foley Award for Outstanding Services to the Community, in Dudley which was presented by the then Mayor of Dudley, Rosemary Tomkinson.

George also organised a used stamp which pulled in more than one million which were used by charitable organisations for resale beneficiaries included, St Johns Ambulance, RNLI, Cancer Research, Oxfam, Guide Dogs for the Blind, The British Kidney Association, Children's Liver Diseases Foundation, Action Heart, Leprosy Association, Arthritis Association, The Snowdrop Appeal and Charities for Children.

Mr Cox, who served with the Royal Marines between 1942 and 1946, was a manager at paint manufacturers Mander Brothers in Wolverhampton for 41 years.

He leaves his wife Josephine, two sons Andrew and Stephen, grandson Mark and granddaughter Elisabeth.

Paying tribute, Mr Baugh, said Mr Cox has been "an exceptional man, a true friend and scout."

## THROUGH THE YEARS

### 1983...

A WALSALL churchman's wife celebrated a very special holy trinity after giving birth to her third son with the same birthday. Mrs Lilian Green gave birth to a boy at Walsall Manor Hospital on March 6 1983, having previously had Geoffrey on the same date in 1978 and Joseph in 1980.

A WOLVERHAMPTON church threatened with demolition reopened after a £220,000 facelift.

The congregation returned to the Darlington Street Methodist church for a service to celebrate the completion of.

NEARLY 400 people queued for just 36 jobs at a Tipton foundry after workers forced recruitment by banning overtime.

The line-up started at dawn at Beans Foundry in Hurst Lane, just hours after shopfloor jobs were up on the noticeboard.

### 1993.....

WOLVES slumped to a 3-1 defeat at West Ham as the football world mourned the death of Bobby Moore.

The main gates and concourse at the ground were turned into a shrine for the star who had died days earlier.

STRIKING lecturers caused classes to be cancelled at colleges across the region.

Students were sent home from colleges across the region after hundreds of teaching staff walked out over proposed changes to contracts.

COUNCILLORS branded a two-year old boy a vandal after he left a trail of destruction in a remembrance garden near Wolverhampton.

The toddler was using a stick to remove the heads off daffodils. Codsall Parish Council agreed to write a letter of protest to the mother.

### 2003...

THREE jaguar limousines were custom-built by a specialist Black Country firm to protect Tony Blair from any possible terrorist attack.

The Government placed an order with S Mac-Neillie of Walsall to add £200,000 of James Bond style security devices to each of the vehicles.

A SIX-YEAR-OLD boy and his father were rescued from the chilly waters of a lake after their sailing dingy capsized. Two Wombourne police officers waded into Himley Lake, near Wolverhampton to rescue them.

TWO swimming pools at Wolverhampton's Health Town Leisure were closed, despite protests at a public meeting. The decision came after a report revealed more than £250,000 would have to be spent on structural work.



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## LETTERS

# Hippodrome means regeneration

HOW predictable of Lowell Williams – Principal of Dudley College – to come out in favour of demolishing Dudley Hippodrome using the now somewhat tired argument that the building is a major eyesore in a highly visible and conspicuous gateway location.

The Friends of Dudley Hippodrome do not disagree that the current state of the building makes it less than attractive, but this view ignores the building's great potential.

The 1,752 seat theatre is the second largest in the whole Midlands and if it were in London's West End there

would be 36 theatres smaller than Dudley Hippodrome. Theatres open on average around 260 days a year, drawing many thousands of people to their town, many of whom arrive before the performance to park and dine, a proportion of whom stay on afterwards.

Also, afterwards the same visitors, many of whom would not otherwise have visited Dudley, would spread good word of mouth about the town. Doesn't this sound like regeneration? The Friends of Dudley Hippodrome all support the Zoo and Black Country Museum and want to work with both.

Theatregoing is a night-time activity which extends the visitor day and experience on from the Zoo and Museum's opening times. Lowell Williams claims to be investing £30m in Dudley. Dudley Hippodrome can be fully restored for between 10 and 20 per cent of that.

Perhaps he could care to demonstrate how a local college for local people can deliver the scale of regeneration that the Hippodrome can – for much less cost.

**GORDON DOWNING**  
Dibdale Road  
Dudley

## Smoking out truth of the tobacco industries

RE: the letter from Alan Peace (Feb25).

For the anti-smoking lobby to claim the tobacco industry has some sort of monopoly in exaggerating the truth is ridiculous.

The "truth" is of course nobody knows how much tobacco is smuggled into the UK but I would say the tobacco industry has a better idea than anyone else because it recognises fluctuations in its sales figures.

Whilst we are on "truths", how about the one where the Australian government stated unequivocally that using plain packaging will not decrease tobacco sales? Or the American study which concluded the effects of passive smoking cannot be proven to cause significant deaths?

The anti-lobby has become a huge self-serving beast which regularly buries evidence to suit itself.

**STEVE SANT**  
Dudley

## LETTERS to the Editor

### POST

Halesowen Chronicle,  
Chronicle Editorial, 51-53  
Queen Street, Wolverhampton  
WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

### E-MAIL

Dudley.chrons@  
expressandstar.co.uk

## Time will tell on the HS2 white elephant

IN 20 year's time, perhaps, the white elephants known as HS1 and HS2 will have been built at a cost of billions.

An estimated cost has been given but previous painful experience tells us that, if the lines get built at all, the projects will almost certainly finish up costing at least double the given estimate.

In the meantime, in less than two months time, this country's spare energy capacity will be reduced from 20 percent to five percent, with the very real prospect of power cuts. This situation has been described by Ofgem as precarious and it is the direct result of the total failure of successive governments' energy policies and their obsession with sticking to carbon emissions targets imposed on us by the rest of the world, including countries such as China, India and the USA, all of whom ignore the targets.

Instead of blighting people's lives for years with the threat of a project that very few people want and only a tiny minority will benefit from, the governments of this country need to get a grip on reality and start spending the billions they are proposing for the pointless high speed rail projects, to deal with the problems we are facing today.

**R A SARGEANT**, Corporation Road, Dudley

## Parking charges will not be a deterrent

RE: pressure being put upon Westfield – the owners of the Merry Hill Shopping Complex – to introduce car parking charges in the hope of thereby persuading shoppers to go elsewhere – presumably the high streets and markets of other towns.

I have every sympathy with the owners and traders in these places who are restricted by access, planning permission, traffic, etc, but Merry Hill has been in existence for at least a quarter of a century – time enough for planners to come up with co-ordinated ideas to help local traders.

As it is, I suspect shoppers would still pay to park at Merry Hill where there is ease of access for all, protection from the elements and passing traffic, every facility to aid easy shopping, toilets maintained in a high level of cleanliness and an impressive choice of food to eat.

**DAVID ATKINSON**  
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## NEWS

# JB's knocked back as bid for banquets is refused

THE NEW owners of revamped nightclub JB's have suffered a knockback as their bid to host conferences and banquets has been thrown out.

Its bosses were hoping to use Dudley Zoo's private car park for the use of guests during functions at the venue.

But in a letter to council planners, the zoo's chief executive Peter Sudcock said the car park, off Castle Hill, Dudley, is strictly for use of the attraction's customers and has restricted opening hours.

Dudley Council's planning department this week announced it has refused a retrospective application on a change of use for the nightclub to allow JB's to hold other events such as conferences and banqueting.

But JB's owner Ramesh Ahir, who reopened the former rock music venue last year, said it was business as usual and added he would be consulting solicitors over launching an appeal against the council's decision.

He says that nightclub customers have been able to use the car park under previous owners and he hopes to come to an agreement with the zoo.

Planning officers, in a report announcing the decision, said: "The continued use of the property for a mix of uses including a nightclub, banqueting suite and conference facilities would raise significant highway safety concerns." Mr Ahir today said he was disappointed by the decision, adding: "We will carry on and stay open but we will look to appeal against this."

## Delve into hidden museum

PEOPLE can learn more about the Worcestershire County Museum at Hartlebury with a tour behind the scenes. Visitors can learn more about the collections in store and items which have never been displayed. The tours will take place on the first Wednesday of the month, from April to October. Tickets can be booked by calling the museum on 01299 250416.

## A question of artwork



Artist Luke Perry with, left to right, assistant librarian Wendy Tibbetts and library assistant Louise Moore launch the artwork sessions for the redeveloped Crown Centre at Stourbridge Library

DUDLEY industrial artist Luke Perry is posing a question to residents after being commissioned with creating new artwork to take pride of place inside Stourbridge's redeveloped Crown Centre.

The stylish piece of metal art would be suspended above the entrance to Stourbridge Library which forms a focal point for the centre surrounding it.

Mr Perry has been commissioned by Tesco, which is behind the development scheme. But he says residents' views will help inspire the final design. Workshops were held at Stourbridge Library for people to give their own ideas which could

form part of the new artwork. The 29-year-old artist from Cradley Heath, said: "The town has a real industrial heritage and we'd love to reflect that. Even though it is Tesco paying for the artwork, we have freedom to do what we want. It's important to get it right as it will be seen by generations of people in the future."

Mr Perry says initial ideas are based around literature and books and would hang from the new atrium linking the library and the rest of the new shopping centre containing the Tesco supermarket.

It would be made from stainless steel.

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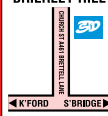
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## NEWS

## Snipping for charity



Natalie Crutchley at Jimmy Trims in Wolverhampton, which is cutting its prices and donating proceeds to charity

A BOOMING chain of barber shops with branches across the region, including Dudley, is snipping its prices and donating its takings to charity.

On March 5, all Jimmy Trims shops will be offering haircuts at a minimum price of £1, with proceeds going to two different causes. Over the past year, barber shops have opened in High Street, Stourbridge, Jeffercock Road, Penn, Wolverhampton, Wolverhampton Street, Willenhall and Wyrley Brook Road, Cannock, and .

Business owner Mimzy Khatkar, aged 30, said giving something back to the community is key to what the company does. He said he and his business partner Ian Matto decided to raise money for Let Us Play, which provides activities for children and young people with special needs, and Promise Dreams, which raises money for children who are seriously or terminally ill.

He said: "It's putting something back into the local community. It's all very good raising money for international charities but sometimes you need to look nearer to home." The company flew to success in the last year by introducing cult comics and vintage music at their premises.

Mr Khatkar said: "Our customers seem to really appreciate what we do. It keeps people entertained."

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# Plumber in attack with crowbar on woman's car

A DUDLEY PLUMBER smashed up a woman's car with a crowbar on a busy road then told police he had no recollection of it.

Dominic Haskew had been embroiled in a row with the victim as they drove along the A456 in Halesowen and took offence when she gestured towards him. Wolverhampton Crown Court was told how Haskew slammed his brakes on and then attacked the car before driving off.

by Adam Thompson

The attack on April 21 last year showered the victim and her husband in glass but she was able to note his registration.

When police arrived at the 51-year-old's home in Bury Crescent, Wollescote, Stourbridge, his number plates had been removed but when he was questioned by officers he claimed he couldn't remember anything about the attack.

It emerged in the case that Haskew had himself been a victim of an attempted robbery when he was hit over the head with a metal bar and thieves attempted to take his tools.

Mr Michael Aspinall, defending, said: "There's not a lot I can say about this offence because Mr Haskew can't remember any of it - he can't believe he had any involvement which explains his no comment in interview. He was the victim of an

attack in 2011 where he was hit over the head with a metal bar. He suffered a heart attack a few months later. However, this is a shameful act, he pleaded guilty at the first available opportunity and his involvement in this offence is wholly wrong."

Haskew admitted three charges of careless driving, criminal damage and affray. He was given a nine-month prison sentence suspended for 18 months and a 12-month supervision order.

He was also handed a two month curfew to stay at his home address between 1pm and midnight, six points on his licence and he must pay £250 compensation.

Judge Michael Challinor while passing sentence said: "This offence has had a significant affect on the victim. By maintaining the attack there was intent to injure."

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Standing proud – Beadesert Hall, for many years the seat of the Marquis of Anglesey, before its demolition



This picture shows the stunning long gallery, complete with fabulous fittings, at the historic Beadesert Hall

# Historic hall's staircase built to accommodate wooden leg

**BETWEEN the Wars, Beadesert Hall, the seat of the Marquis of Anglesey and home to the Pagets since Henry VIII hit hard times.**

A spendrift Marquis, death duties and diminishing income from estates had caused the Pagets to retreat to their Anglesey home, Plas Newydd. The once proud hall started to decay. The hall stood empty until a fire made it unsafe and it was mainly demolished leaving just a few walls standing.

An Australian couple on honeymoon were having a mansion built on ground given as a wedding present and they bought a large proportion of the fittings and windows from the hall and had them shipped back to their home town of Adelaide.

*by Ron Bradbury*

The fittings included the famous Waterloo Staircase, which had been specially designed so the newly created Marquis of Anglesey could negotiate the stairs with his wooden leg.

Paget, then the Earl of Uxbridge, was second in command at Waterloo, and had his leg sawn off after it being severely wounded. He is reputed to be the first person to have a wooden leg with a knee joint and was able to dance as well as he had before he lost his limb.

The aerial photo shows the Adelaide mansion, known as Carrick Hill, one of the few period homes in Australia to survive with its original contents almost completely intact and one of

only a handful of such places open to the public in the country.

The others show Beadesert Hall before demolition and the long gallery with some fine fittings.

My local photo book, now out of print and showing some photos of Beadesert Hall was presented to the Carrick Hill House Trust by my friend John Ashley on a visit.

## Atmospheric

The Burntwood Chase Heritage Group Nostalgia Night is on Tuesday, February 5 when the atmospheric film 'Turn of the Tide' will be screened. It was the first film that J Arthur Rank financed and was in fact his favourite.

The venue is St Johns Church, High Street, Chase Terrace at 7.30pm. This film is being shown by request and has not been seen for several years.



Aerial shot of Carrick Hill period home in Australia



A rear view of Beadesert Hall, home to the Pagets



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# Driver may have fallen asleep due to painkillers

## Primates plumping up



Trainee keeper Cerys Grove, of Stourbridge weighs one of the monkeys

MONKEYS at Dudley Zoo have been trained to hop on to weighing scales once a month as part of their regular health checks.

The weigh-ins for the male Saki monkeys allow keepers to spot evidence of any monkey tricks at meal-times when Obi Wan, Deju and Rio receive their daily rations.

Curator Matt Lewis said:

"Because they have thick, hairy coats, it's difficult to see whether one of them is hogging the food and getting fat, or maybe not eating enough and losing weight."

"We've trained them to hop on to the scales in return for a piece of carrot or banana. We have to vary the food to keep them co-operative, but the play seems to be working."

A LORRY driver who died when his HGV drifted off a motorway and hit a barrier and a tree may have fallen asleep after taking strong painkillers, an inquest heard.

Father-of-two David Smith, aged 37, of Russells Hall Road, Dudley, was driving on the M5 near Gloucester early on June 1 last year when he crashed.

There was evidence that Mr Smith had taken strong painkillers, which could cause drowsiness, for a serious back complaint in the 24 hours before his death, the inquest in Gloucester heard.

His wife Emma said in a statement, he was a "cheeky, bubbly and laid-back man" who lived for his family, loved football and enjoyed a drink at weekends. He worked nights as a driver for City Link and was a fit and healthy man until January 2012, when he developed back and leg pain.

In a statement, his GP, Dr Stephen Cartwright said Mr Smith had been prescribed co-codamol painkillers in January 2012 but later asked for stronger medication. On May 8, he was prescribed Tramadol and was advised not to take them before driving, Dr Cartwright said. Toxicological analysis showed low levels of Tramadol in Mr Smith's system. A post mortem examination by pathologist revealed Mr Smith died of head and other multiple injuries. Gloucestershire deputy coroner David Dooley recorded a verdict of accidental death.

## Ex-mayor enjoys 101

A FORMER Mayoress of Stourport has celebrated her 101st birthday and puts it down to "a glass of sherry on special occasions and living a happy life." Elizabeth Mills MBE, who was born on February 25, 1912, marked the milestone with family and friends at Ravenhurst Care Home, Stourport. Elizabeth worked as a bank clerk in Walsall before and during the Second World War. She moved to Stourport with her late husband Lesley in 1956.

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**NEWS**

# Plans for £2.6m revamp at park are submitted

A £2.6 MILLION revamp of a park used by thousands from across the region has moved a step closer after plans for the project were lodged by council bosses.

The scheme at Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Park includes creating a new cafe and restoring the bandstand.

Improvements would also be made to the Heath Pool, to include a viewing platform, and the war memorial.

Sports facilities including the tennis courts and bowling green will also be refurbished under the plans drawn up by Dudley Council. Bosses are bidding for cash from the Heritage Lottery Fund to cover the cost.

A second round application is due to be submitted in the coming weeks. They have already been awarded an initial grant of £116,000 to develop the proposals.

As part of the work, the main Grade II listed gates will be restored. Residents and councillors have long campaigned for them to be spruced up because the brick and ironwork has been showing signs of decay.

Other work includes encouraging greater use of the formal terrace and Tea Gardens as well as woodland in the east of the park.

A "graffiti shelter" for teenagers will also be restored. It provides a display area for "the creative production" of graffiti within the park. New footpaths would also be created.

Councillor Tracy Wood said: "Mary Stevens Park in Stourbridge is one of the most well-used parks in the borough."



The war memorial in Mary Stevens Park in line for improvements



Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge - a £2.6m plan has been submitted

## Hedge volunteers wanted

VOLUNTEERS are wanted to join in a day of hedge planting at an organic farm in Kinver. The community event, organised by the Transition Stourbridge group will be held at Vale Head Farm, Compton Road, on March 10, starting at 10am. Anyone joining in is asked to bring wellies, suitable clothing, a spade if they have one and something to share for lunch. More information call 01384 351414.

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## NEWS

## Jennifer aims to cut it



**Hairdresser Jennifer Dunn, aged 23, from Oldbury who is competing in the "Miss Black Country" competition**

A DUDLEY hairdresser is in the running for the title of Miss Black Country for a second year after taking the runner-up spot in the competition in 2012.

Jennifer Dunn, of Oldbury, is hoping to build on her previous success in the event and take the coveted tiara.

The 23-year-old, who works at Snippers, Kingswinford, said she was looking forward to taking part in the competition again.

The finals of the Miss Black Country competition will be held at the Village Hotel in Dudley, on March 28.

Jennifer entered the competition for the first time last year with her runner-up spot securing her a place in the semi-final of the Miss England competition.

The winner of Miss Black Country title is automatically placed in the finals of the Miss England event.

"I had such a good time last year I was really eager to take part in the competition again," she said.

"I am Black Country born and raised so to win the title would mean the world to me."

# Traffic chaos worries over five months of roadworks

**WORRIED** Sedgley people fear about five months of roadworks will cause chaos on one of the town's busiest roads.

Between March 4 and August 16 Gospel End Street will be one-way heading away from the town centre as far as its junction with High Street. Vicar Street will be one-way westbound and Hall Street will close to allow a stone wall to be dismantled and rebuilt further from the road as a footpath is created.

However, Margret Whiting, aged 61, of The Northway, said: "It sounds like it will be a right mess - five months on one of the busiest roads here."

"It's just crazy. It's hard enough for shops here with the lack of parking."

Sarah Wheatley, of Sedgley Hill Avenue, said the temporary system would be "chaos" and added: "This road through the High Street is already really busy."

"There must be a better way. Hopefully they'll be done before six months."

Sedgley councillor Michael Evans, said people should be patient and disruption would be worth it in the end.

"Gospel End Street is an extremely busy road. There are three sets of school chil-

dren that have to cross it and elderly people also have much difficulty," he said.

"Now the stone wall will be going and it will be put back a bit to allow room for a footpath to be built where there is none currently."

Nearby schools are Cotwall End Primary School, off Priory Lane; Dormston School, Mill Bank, and Queen Victoria Primary School, Bilston Street.

Mr Evans said a long period was needed mainly as the wall to be dismantled was long. He added: "Having so far failed to get a crossing so many people had asked for, the footpath was 'the best we could achieve'." During the work there will be a diversion along The Northway, A459 Wolverhampton Road, High Street and Dudley Street.

**by Sharon Marris**

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Law Society President John Wotton said that the Law Society introduced CQS to promote high standards in the home buying process.

"CQS improves efficiency with common, consistent standards and service levels and enables consumers to recognise practices that provide a quality residential conveyancing service."

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Adam Dummer says "Middleton Dummer is delighted to have secured CQS status. It is recognition of the high standards we provide to our residential property Clients and is a signal to future home buyers of the excellent service we provide at what is often a stressful time for many people."

"The overall beneficiaries will be Clients who use Middleton Dummer when buying a home. They will receive a reliable, efficient service as recognised by the CQS standard."

The scheme requires practices to undergo a strict assessment, compulsory training, self reporting, random audits and annual reviews in order to maintain CQS status. It is open only to members of the Law Society who meet the demanding standards set by the scheme and has the support of the Council of Mortgage Lenders, the Building Societies Association, Legal Ombudsman and the Association of British Insurers.

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**CLUB NEWS****Learning about life on canals****QUARRY BANK E TWG**

CHAIRMAN Mrs V Wright opened this, the first meeting of 2013 by wishing everyone a Happy New Year. Normal business followed with the reading and signing of minutes of our last meeting and the treasurer's report.

Mrs Wright informed us of the success of last year's charity events, the money raised having been sent to our chosen charity, Mary Stevens Hospice.

Mrs V Raybould gave information from her attending at the federation meeting.

The annual lunch is again at The Mill Hotel and will be on July 29.

Orders for 2014 TG diaries must be in by March 19. Social secretary Mrs M Writtle said the birthday lunch would be at The Mill Hotel on March 26. A list was sent round on which to record menu preferences. A craft exhibition at the Ruskin Centre was also mentioned.

The speaker for the evening was Tina Gittins, who drew attention to the fact that the canals were so important in bringing prosperity both to the Black Country and other industrial areas because of the quick efficient transport of materials and manufactured goods, so slow and laborious previously by horse and wagon.

She also dwelt on the lives of women working alongside the men on the canal barges and at the same time bringing up their children in such tiny cramped cabins.

**Coffee and a chat helps out charities**

Jon Newman, from Macmillan Cancer Support, and Sylvia McCarty and Mildred Weir, from Cruse Bereavement Care, standing, accept their cheques from chairman Helen Roberts, seated, and incoming chairman Sarah James, standing centre

**HOT drinks and chat at a series of regular coffee mornings in Wolverhampton have helped to raise a total of £3,000 for two charities.**

The Wulfruna Ladies' Coffee Club has been meeting at members' homes in the city since the 1960s.

Over the past two years the ladies involved with the group have been fundraising for two worthy causes, Macmillan Cancer Support and the Wolverhampton and Dudley branch of Cruse Bereavement Care. Each charity will receive £1,500, which has been raised through bring-and-

**WULFRUNA LADIES' COFFEE CLUB**

buy sales and raffles, as well as charging members £1 for their drinks.

Other organisations they have raised cash for include Compton Hospice and the eye infirmary. The group has announced its next fundraiser will be for the MS Therapy Centre in the city.

Club secretary Rosemary Moss, who has been attending the group since the mid 1970s, said: "It is incredible when you think it has all been raised thanks to having a cup of coffee."

**A minute's silence for Meg****WOLLASTON E TWG**

CHAIRMAN Jean Latham welcomed 55 members, including nine newcomers, to the February meeting.

A minute's silence was observed for Meg Guinness, a founder member and the chairman between 1974 and 1977.

In the absence of secretary Sue Ward, the minutes of the last meeting were read by Jill Dunn. A thank you letter had been received from the Acorns Children's

Hospice for the donation of £75 from the guild's carol service at Cobden Street Methodist Church.

The annual dinner is to be held at Blakelands Restaurant, Bobbington, on the evening of May 7.

Federation representative Joan Oakley is still unable to attend due to illness, from which we wish her a speedy

recovery. Hazel Butt read an extensive account of the last meeting. Sub section leaders then gave their reports.

The speaker, Ian Bott, gave an informative and interesting talk on local churches and cemeteries.

The competition winners were Elizabeth Grove and Ann Price. Raffle prizes went to Brenda Adkins and Sandra Oliver.

The annual general meeting will be on March 12.

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## NEWS

## Art wins honours



Sculptor Phil Potter, from Brierley Hill, with his two award-winning sculptures, at Ruskin Glass Centre, Amblecote

A SCULPTOR based at Stourbridge's Ruskin Glass Centre has been honoured for his work.

Phil Potter received a commendation for two pieces he submitted to the Friends of the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists exhibition. The presentation was made at the private view at the St Paul's Square Gallery.

Mr Potter, 45, graduated from Loughborough College of Art and Design with a degree in sculpture in 1995. Since then he has been teaching and has been based at the Ruskin Centre since 2001.

Last year he gave up teaching to become a full-time artist. Both of the award-winning pieces are now back on display at the centre.

The first which took him 12 months to complete, is made from a four-inch slab of limestone and has a Celtic knot-work pattern. The second is 4ft 6ins tall and is also made of limestone.

Mr Potter, who lives in Brierley Hill and is one of 18 practising artists based at the Ruskin, said: "The award is voted for by other members of the group which makes it all the more special."

# Drug addict chased his father with axe in feud

A DRUG addict chased his father with an axe after first embedding the weapon in his car windshield.

by Adam Thompson

Christopher Smart had only been arrested days earlier for throwing a concrete block through the window of his mother's vehicle. Wolverhampton Crown Court heard how Smart's mother heard a loud noise and when she went to investigate she saw a large lump of concrete had been put through her car.

The court was told how the defendant had drug issues and became estranged from his parents which sparked the feud.

After carrying out the act on his mother's car on September 23 last year, Smart of Hungerford Road, Stourbridge, was arrested, admitted the crime and was bailed. When his father went to check on the property in Hungerford Road, three days later, he saw his 23-year-old son wielding a six-

inch knife and an axe embedded in the windshield of his car. The court heard Smart began shouting "you're going to get it now."

He then dropped the knife, grabbed the axe and continued to chase his father before throwing it at him.

Miss Kate Thomas, defending, said: "I have had a long and heartfelt conference with Mr Smart's family who intend to support him."

Smart was given a 12-month community order and is required to carry out six months of rehab and 12 months of supervision. He is also required to take a behaviour programme.

## History group's first meeting

WOODSIDE Memory & History Group has its first meeting of the year on Monday March 18 at 7pm. Chairman Len Hughes said the subject of the meeting would be based on Blocksides Dudley Almanac for 1945 detailing "The Epitome of Local Events". Mr Hughes said the meeting would be held at the Woodside Community Centre, attached to Woodside Primary School.

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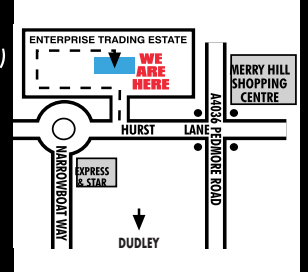
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## NEWS

## NEWS

## in brief

**Elderly man is robbed at home**

TWO robbers burst into an elderly man's home in Dudley and stole the jewellery he was wearing.

The two men knocked on the 76-year-old's door at his home in Brereton Close and when he answered they forced their way in, punching him to the floor.

They then stole a silver chain with a crucifix on it from around his neck and two gold bracelets from his wrist before running off. He suffered a cut lip and bruising in the attack.

Officers revealed details of the raid to find anyone with anyone with information about the crime, which happened at around 9.50am on January 9.

**Baggies' stars to face a grilling**

FORMER West Bromwich Albion stars are to face a grilling at Old Hill cricket club.

Cyrille Regis and Richard Snedden will be quizzed on their time at the Baggies at the cricket club in Haden Hill Park Road, Cradley Heath on March 14 from 7.30pm.

Tickets are £5 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/olhill or can be bought from Danny Cox on 07411 647364.

**Anti-racism move**

DUDLEY Council bosses joined two major football clubs in a scheme to beat racism. The council will host Show Racism the Red Card for events over the next year, many with West Bromwich Albion and Wolves.

# Ex-finance boss must hand back thousands she stole

**THOUSANDS of pounds taken from a Black Country nursing home by its former finance chief are to be returned after a court ruling.**

Tracy Bennett fiddled £25,993 at Holbeche House, Wall Heath. Bennett, aged 40, of Broad Street, Kingswinford, was back before Wolverhampton Crown Court last week for a proceeds of crime hearing. Edward Soulsby, prosecuting, said that £13,982 taken by Bennett was in two bank accounts which had been frozen by the court.

Recorder Abigail Nixon ruled that it be released and paid back to Four Seasons, the company which runs the home.

Bennett has no other assets. But if she comes into money in the future, the courts will be able to apply for her to pay back the outstanding money. Bernard Porter, defending, said his client did not object to the money being paid back.

## One of a kind Jack, dies 94

COLOURFUL, charismatic and fully committed to the people he represented – long-serving Dudley councillor Jack Wilson MBE was “one of a kind in politics” to most who knew him.

The former councillor who served Coseley from 1949 to 2002 was often remembered for putting his constituents before political party, fiercely lobbying fellow politicians and his memorable catchphrase “Do you know who I am?”

His life of public service was arguably unrivalled he was first elected to Coseley Urban District Council, then Staffordshire County Council, followed by Dudley Borough Council until he retired due to ill health.

Recently, he is perhaps best known for his long campaigning to save Coseley Baths, an issue which left him “deeply upset” when it was demolished in 2010, according to his son John.

He was mayor of Dudley in 1975-76 and was awarded an MBE and Freeman of Dudley in 1989. Following his death at Broadway Hall Care Home in Dudley on February 23, aged 94, colleagues at Dudley Council paid tribute to him.

Councillor Les Jones said: “People like Jack who are really committed to the local community and spend their entire life time helping them are hard to find.”



Tracy Bennett

Bennett, a single mother of twins, joined the care home in Wolverhampton Road in 2008 and worked her way up to become financial administrator.

She moved cash into a personal account to pay her bills and then fiddled the books to cover it up.

Bennett forged signatures on receipts which suggested cash went on buying items for the nursing home. She also syphoned off cash paid by local authorities to cover the accommodation costs of people living at the home.

Her trial heard that when arrested, Bennett showed no remorse, blaming it all on her depression.

She pleaded guilty to two charges of fraud and was given a 42-week prison sentence suspended for two years.

Judge Martin Walsh said that she was not jailed immediately because of her health, children, and previous good character.

Sarah Ramamurthy, of Four Seasons, has said that any resident or former resident who had lost money would be reimbursed.

## Double top for darts team



Pensnett Liberal Club darts team, including captain Alan Lathe, seated, celebrate winning 20 games in a row and the title

A DARTS team in Dudley has celebrated winning the league title in some style with an amazing 20-game winning streak.

The Liberal Club darts team, which plays its home games in Pensnett, only lost one game – their final match of the season – en route to winning the title.

They have been cheered on during the successful campaign by friends and family watching their weekly matches.

The table-topping win was secured despite the 4-3 defeat in the final game against The Shakespeare Pub in Dudley.

Around eight players form the team, captained by Alan Lathe, and they play their games in the Pensnett, Brierley Hill and Bromley Tuesday Night Darts League.

One of their throwers, Jamie Lewis, topped the table for the best league average over the season.

## New laws make dent in thefts of metal

METAL theft across the West Midlands is at its lowest level in two years, claim police, with chiefs praising new laws to cut cash payments for scrap.

Latest figures showed reports peaking last May with around 850 metal thefts a month, but in December there were 100.

It still equates to more than three a day, but the region's Police and Crime Commissioner Bob Jones paid tribute to officers' efforts to drive down a problem that had become the scourge of churches, schools, homeowners and even blighted the public transport network.

Mr Jones said: “Metal thefts in December 2012 were the lowest we've seen, which is a huge achievement. I would like to congratulate West Midlands Police and partners for making this possible.”

The police, local authorities, MPs, councillors, and many others campaigned for many years to end cash payments for scrap metal, and we are starting to see the fruits of these new laws.”

## Free gas check

DUDLEY Council tenants are being offered a free annual gas check at their properties. Dudley Council tenants are asked to call 01384 286086 to arrange an appointment from Monday to Saturday between 8am and 8pm.

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## Plan for town's best kept secret are welcomed

PLANS to develop a waterfront area of Stourbridge to capitalise on the town's "best kept secret" have been welcomed by its MP, Margot James.

Council bosses have outlined proposals to boost the use of the River Stour and visitor numbers as part of its masterplan for the town. They want to encourage development along the riverside to help link it better with the town centre.

The regeneration plan includes new pathways alongside the river and new pedestrian crossing points on parts of the ring road to help make the town centre more accessible on foot or by bicycle. New green space is proposed alongside the banks of the river to help encourage wildlife, create an attractive green landscape setting and promote outdoor recreation such as walking and cycling.

The plan will also improve the Stourbridge Wharf area, by the Stourbridge Branch Canal, with improved visitor attraction facilities.

The scheme forms part of the Stourbridge Area Action Plan, which aims to boost development in the town over the coming years. Miss James said she believed the River Stour was one of the town's "greatest assets" and was a valuable "recreational and nature conservation resource for everyone in the community".

But she said the river was cut off from the town centre by the ring road. "I very much welcome the Action Plan," she said. "The river is Stourbridge's best kept secret, and deserves to be maintained and redeveloped, so I am delighted that these plans are becoming a reality."

## Teacher faces his fears with taste of high life



Neil Bate gets in the swing watched by his students

**TEACHER Neil Bate was for the high jump when he told his pupils they were banned from playing football after Aston Villa lost a match.**

So they got their own back by challenging him to conquer his fear of heights by climbing 55ft up to take on the ropes on an adventure course.

Mr Bate, aged 29, was nominated by his Year 6 class at Rufford Primary School, Stourbridge, to tackle the UK's highest indoor rope course, at Quest in Dudley's Merry Hill shopping centre. In their nomination they cited their reason – the football ban after his team lost.

They also moaned that he made them do a lot of hard work during the school term and that he made them sit out in the cold during lunchtime.

Mr Bate said: "Wonderfully, my class nominated me to face my fears as revenge on me."

"I had to go and climb the highest lev-

els to face my fears." His pupils watched in glee as he looked terrified to start with.

Gradually, he inched further along obstacles including high beams and walk the plank, making a sign of the cross as he went, and eventually got to grips with learning the ropes. His ordeal ended with him facing up to a scary "sheer drop".

Mark Knox, manager at Quest Merry Hill, said: "It was absolutely fantastic to see Mr Bate reach the 17-metre summit."



Teacher Neil Bate braves the high walk

## Woman, 38 sentenced for waving knife about

A WOMAN waved a knife at a group of youngsters who shouted abuse at her while she was sunbathing, a court was told.

Margaret Holland was seen by police waving the knife in the doorway of a block of flats in Ashenhurst Walk, Dudley, on July 24 last year.

Holland, aged 38, of St John's Road, Tipton, was given a four-month jail sentence suspended for 12 months by Wolverhampton Crown Court.

She was also placed under supervision for a year after admitting a charge of having a bladed article at a previous hearing.

Mr Mark Phillips, prosecuting, said officers attending a separate incident were told a woman was outside a block of flats waving a knife.

She said a group of youths had abused her while she was sunbathing and she had gone to remonstrate with them.

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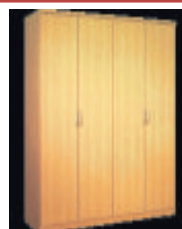
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## NEWS

# Threatened child centres are safe for 12 months

**TWENTY** under-threat children's centres in one borough will remain open for at least another 12 months despite cuts in funding that have left their long-term future in jeopardy.

Concerns were raised for Dudley's 20 centres after a grant used to fund them was cut by £2.8million for 2013/14.

But while neighbouring councils, including Wolverhampton, have announced centre closures, Dudley Council's cabinet member for education, Tim Crumpton, said no centres in the borough would shut for at least a year.

Instead, they will all be brought under the council's full control from April 1.

Councillor Crumpton, however, warned changes to the way the services are run were needed. He said: "We have made the decision to ensure no children's centre will close over the next 12 months despite the cut in funding from the Government."

"During the next 12 months we will be holding a consultation on the running of the centres - part of this will be to find how we can run them at a lower cost."

Currently five of the 20 children's centres in the borough are managed by a contractor and another three are run by schools. From April 1, all will be fully managed by the council. The move will save £320,000.

Wolverhampton City Council this week announced plans to reduce the number of its centres from 17 to eight after losing £3.88m of funding.

## Staples closes down shop

STATIONERY chain Staples has closed its store at Merry Hill as part of a "strategic plan to accelerate growth and better serve evolving needs of customers".

Staples has shut its outlet at the Dudley shopping centre as part of its nationwide closure programme of 23 of its 134 stores.

Spokesman for Staples, Olga Joven would not reveal the number of staff redundancies.

## Auditions open for Annie



Front, from left, from Bilston Operatic Society, Chloe Freeman-Chick, aged 13, Amy Sheffield, 16, back from left, Rebecca Luter, 15, Katie Sanger and Laura Morris, both 16, with Danny the dog

YOUNG stage stars are wanted to audition for a part in Annie, a new production to be performed at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre.

Auditions will be held for roles, including the lead role of Annie, in the show, which will be staged by Bilston Operatic Society. Performers are being invited to show off their talents at auditions at Tettenhall College, Wood Road, Wolverhampton on March 24. Sue Turner,

a committee member of the society for 46 years, said the lead role would be a test for any young starlet, due to the range of qualities they would need to show.

Anyone interested in auditioning for the show should attend Tettenhall College from 9am to 1pm on March 24.

For more information about the auditions call 01902 745739 or email bilstonoperatic@hotmail.co.uk.

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## History of canal tunnels talk to help raise funding

THE history of the Dudley Canal Tunnel and 200-year-old limestone mines will be explored during a fundraising talk this month.

Dudley Canal Trust has helped develop the site into a leading attraction with plans under way for a £3.3m visitors' centre.

Chairman of the Dudley Canal Trust, Vic Smallshire, who founded the organisation 50 years ago, will lead the talk on March 7.

It will delve deeper into work done by the trust which welcomes around 80,000 visitors a year to the attraction on Birmingham New Road, Dudley.

The talk will be held at the Church Hall, in Vicarage Drive, off Kinver High Street, starting at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £7 with

proceeds going to Mary Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge. They are available either from the Hospice shop in Kinver High Street, online from the Hospice website, from organiser Sylvia Sidaway on 01384 877680 or on the door.

Officials are waiting to hear if they have been successful in securing lottery and European funding to build the heritage and learning centre.

The trust is working alongside Dudley Council which is planning a major redevelopment of the Castle Hill area neighbouring the tunnel. This would better link Dudley Canal Trust with the Black Country Living Museum and Dudley Zoo to create a tourism destination.

## Come dine reunion bid



Mandeep Rajput from TV's *Come Dine With Me*

**DUDLEY** contestants who fought it out in the kitchen on television show *Come Dine With Me* are hoping to hold a reunion.

After a hard-fought week of culinary triumphs and disasters, the five hosts are looking to meet up again.

Vicky Pell, the self-proclaimed Duchess of Dudley, and banker Mandeep Rajput were named joint winners of the show.

Both scored 28 out of 40, beating fellow Dudley residents Adam, Sarah and Di, on the TV show where contestants judge each other's skills as a host and cook.

Grandmother-of-three Vicky, who runs Vicky's Dog Grooming Parlour and Pet Shop in Quarry Bank High Street, said afterwards: "It wouldn't have bothered me if I hadn't won, if I'm honest. I've met some

lovely people and had a fantastic dining experience." Co-winner Mandeep Rajput, who will share the £1,000 prize with Vicky, was the first to host the others with a night featuring Indian cuisine and saucy bhangra dancing. The 38-year-old, a business development manager from Oldbury, said: "When I found out I'd won it was great news but I should have won clear, I think."

"If I'd had to share I would have chosen to share with Vicky but everybody said that, by far, my night came across as the best."

Mandeep said he was trying to organise a reunion of the five contestants. He said: "We all had a right laugh and I got on with everybody." The episodes were most notable, however, for the conflict between former Kingswinford School pupil Adam Reece, aged 26, and Sedgley spoon-playing pensioner and third place Di Dawson, aged 65.

## Author does card design

A TOP author has designed a new library card for children in the Wyre Forest district and elsewhere in Worcestershire.

Children aged up to 12 will soon be able to get their hands on the card, designed by Liz Pichon, from libraries across the county after it is launched on World Book Day on March 7.

One of the UK's rising stars in children's literature, Pichon was the winner at the 2012 National Book Award.

Author of the popular Tom Gates series, she has included characters from the books in her design.

## Bronte classic is to be staged at centre



Jane Williams, who plays the eponymous heroine Jane Eyre, with Gareth May who will play Mr Rochester

A THEATRE company will be bringing classic novel Jane Eyre to life in a stage production this week.

Dudley Little Theatre will stage the Charlotte Bronte novel in a production, which has been adapted for the stage by Willis Hall, at Netherton Arts Centre.

Mrs Chris Ridgeway, publicity officer at the theatre company, said: "The production is brought to the stage in a way for the audience to see the different stages in the progress of the story. It should be a really interesting production."

"It goes from when she is first at home in the house where she is taken as an orphan and treated very badly and then sent off to a very harsh boarding school to where eventually she becomes a governess and goes to the home of Mr Rochester. It is really a story for all time and is about love conquering adversity."

The production runs from March 6 to 9 at 7.30pm. The arts centre is located on Northfield Road, Netherton.

Tickets are £7, with concessions at £6 and a discount of 10 per cent off sales of 10 or more tickets. They are available from the Dudley Council Plus shop by calling 01384 812812, from Chris Ridgeway on 01384 872583 or 07582 318017, or Specs Maniac of Halesowen.

## Run organisers give charity £4,000 boost

ORGANISERS of a fun run in a West Midland village have presented a cheque for more than £4,000 to a heart health charity.

The Kinver 10k Road Race and 2k family fun run raised £4,275, bringing the total to more than £20,000 in the past six years. Almost 300 runners took part in the race last October in the surrounding roads around the South Staffordshire village.

Cash from the event has been donated to the Dudley charity Action Heart based at Russells Hall Hospital.

Race organiser, rotarian John Pittwood, said the final total was magnificent and thanked all who had paid the cash to support the runners. Overheads for the event had been previously met through financial support from BodyKraft of Pennsett, Safeline Environmental of Hartlebury and the Dudley Motor Company. Action Heart spokeswoman Joy Brown said: "I would like to thank members of Kinver Rotary for organising another successful 10k race."

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## GARDENING

# Be patience and earn bedding plant reward

**FEBRUARY** is often the coldest month of the year, but despite this, it's the time when real gardeners start to grow in earnest.

The wise old birds that sow seed in mid winter are able to grow plants that will be ready for planting out at just the right time.

Some bedding plants are relatively slow growers and need several months to transform from seeds to plants ready to flower.

Tender geraniums, begonias and lobelia are examples that ideally need to be sown now so that they receive 18 to 20 weeks of growth and are ready for planting out when frosts are finished around the end of May.

It doesn't matter what the weather is like, as long as you have a warm spot for germination and a bright windowsill on which the seedlings can grow.

You just need patience for this early bird gardening that will save you plenty of money compared with buying garden-ready plants in May.

## Waste

Simply take a clean plastic seed tray and fill it with fresh Miracle-Gro Seed & Cutting Compost.

Use a flat piece of wood to level the surface and then place the tray in a shallow bowl of water to gradually moisten the compost from the bottom.

As with all composts it pays to buy fresh every season as the nutrients available to the roots diminishes gradually after the bag is opened.

Saving pennies by using up old compost is rarely the way to ensure good strong growth.

Instead it can spell disaster and a total waste of your investment in



Geranium such as the Vista Red pictured here, require darkness to germinate and do best in warm conditions of 24C

## Topical tips

**Take time to plan your flower borders, beds, hanging baskets and patio pots so you can buy packets of seed, pots of seedling plants or plug plants at the time when there is maximum choice**

packets of seed. Follow the pack instruction on your flower seed packet as to whether you should cover the seed with more compost and the temperature required for germination.

Bedding begonias need light while

geraniums require darkness. To keep the compost evenly moist while germination occurs, I find it useful to cover the tray with a plastic dome or slip the whole seed tray inside a white or clear plastic bag.

Geraniums, begonia and lobelia germinate best in warm conditions of 24C (75F).

Unfortunately they require this temperature consistently for fastest germination, which is where a thermostatically controlled propagator comes in really handy.

● Words and photographs supplied by John Clowes, of The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company



If you are new to growing geranium from seed try Horizon Salmon, left or Mr Fothergill's Mophead Selection

# Novice gardeners may find seedlings easier

**AS an alternative to sowing your own, your local garden centre or nursery will sell ready germinated seedlings that are much easier for novice gardeners to grow.**

A professional plant propagator will have already done the harden work of germination and your job is to give the plant enough space and light to grow to flowering size.

To get these tiny treasures growing fast give them extra room and root space in a tip-top compost of your choice.

Do this immediately after buying or

otherwise the seedlings could easily dry out or grow lanky looking for light.

For best results use trays that are ready separated into individual cells and a rich compost such as Miracle-Gro Expand 'n Gro or Miracle-Gro All Purpose Enriched Compost.

Placed on a sunny windowsill, your plants will take a few weeks to get to a large enough stage that they need small but individual pots.

## Sturdy

Giving these seedling plants and any others you buy steadily more room for roots to thrive is the best way to encourage sturdy growth.

If you put seedling plants into too big

a pot right from the beginning they do tend to sulk and not grow quickly, mainly because the large amount of compost, relative to the root ball, remains wet and cold.

If you are new to geraniums from seed you will be pleased to find that Thompson & Morgan offer their World's Top Six Mix of 30 seeds for £9 that includes the pink Horizon Salmon or Mr Fothergill's Mophead Selection of several different vibrant colours for just over £3 for 10 seeds.

Alternatively, if you are happy to grow just tradition deep crimson geraniums why not try a packet of Suttons Vista Red that contains 25 seeds for just £3.55?

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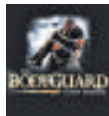
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\*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single room supplements apply.

Arranged by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

**For a theatre brochure please call (01902) 319999 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm), or go to [expressandstar.com/starextratravel](http://expressandstar.com/starextratravel)**

Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions





# Bill for treating foreign patients hits £45,000

## Foodbank is the chosen charity



Kelvin Bates at food bank in Halesowen which has been named the Ryemarket Shopping Centre's charity of the year

A HALESOWEN foodbank with branches across the Black Country has been chosen by a shopping centre as its sponsored charity for 2013.

The Ryemarket in Stourbridge has offered to fundraise for the Black Country Foodbank and help raise its profile throughout the year.

Wendy Fryatt, who founded the foodbank, said she was "delighted" her organisation had been selected.

She added: "It's absolutely amazing and it will do so much to help raise our profile and hopefully help us raise more donations and recruit more volunteers."

Kelvin Bates, floor house manager at the foodbank's main warehouse, in Little Cornbow, Halesowen, said it fed more than 12,000 people in 2012.

"In this day and age, should there really be a need for foodbanks in civilised society?"

More than a dozen Stourbridge organisations submitted applications to become the shopping centre's charity of the year. Centre manager Kelley Dyas said there had been "several outstanding candidates" but the foodbank was the most deserving as it helped all ages and backgrounds.

## Lady golfers putt in a lot of funding

LADY golfers have got into the swing of fundraising and handed a cheque for £4,251 to Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice.

The money was raised by the ladies of Hagley Golf and Country Club.

Fundraising events included sales of calendars, depicting members and scenes from around the golf club, a Ladies' Ascot Day and a walk around Mary Stevens Park.

Raffles and a sponsored swim by a member's daughter also brought the cash rolling in.

Celia Shakespeare, lady captain of the club, said: "We are very proud of our contribution."

## Schools to get £8.5m for repairs

SCHOOLS in Dudley have received a £8.5 million windfall to repair buildings and help create extra places for pupils.

The cash has been awarded by the Department for Education and will be available to spend from April.

Dudley Council will have £5.4m to use to revamp school buildings while a £3.1m pot will be used to create new school places.

Across the country the Government has announced more than £4 billion will be made available.

Dudley South MP Chris Kelly said: "This extra money for school buildings will be very welcome."

## Council team victory

SPORTING council workers and councillors raised £270 for charity when they took part in an indoor cricket match.

The staff and councillors, competing on behalf of Team DB (Team Dudley Borough) which was set up earlier this year to help raise money for good causes.

They battled it out in the match which took place at the old Pensnett High School site. The team of Dudley councillors won the game with one ball to spare.

The match will be followed by a calendar full of events that could also feature bowling, football, swimming, fishing and even dragon boat racing. Following the Olympic success of Team GB in 2012, Dudley Council kicked off the New Year by launching Team DB. Team DB will arrange and take part in charity sports events throughout the year.

FOREIGN patients have left Dudley's NHS trust with a bill of more than £45,000 during the past five years, according to new figures that claim hospitals across the region are owed £1 million.

The NHS has been forced to write-off thousands in debt that bosses have been unable to claim back from overseas patients. Britain has healthcare agreements with some countries and provides free NHS care for those living in Britain regardless of nationality, while most other foreign visitors have to pay for non-emergency treatment. But hospitals say there are often complications when trying to claim back the money, and the decision to write off debt is always a last resort.

Overseas patients treated at Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust have clocked up £45,496 debt in the past five years while the trust has had to write off £71,041 of debt during the same period. Some of this would have been accumulated before 2008. Stourbridge MP Margot James said: "This is an unacceptable use of NHS resources. Hospitals should carry out checks on people's immigration status if there is any doubt about their eligibility for treatment and, unless it is a medical emergency or a need for maternity or antenatal care, healthcare treatment should be refused."

Russells Hall Hospital and its foreign patients policy hit the headlines in October

by Sharon Marris

2011 when an illegal immigrant from Pakistan was deported after more than a year at the hospital.

Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust chief executive Paula Clark said: "The trust's turnover is £288 million; the money owed by non EU patients is comparatively small compared to other NHS organisations. However, we take monies owed to the trust seriously and in all cases we vigorously pursue outstanding debt where possible."

Wolverhampton's hospital trust was left with the highest debt in the region. It is owed £757,919.98 from overseas patients and has had to write off £174,428.95.

## Police to answer questions from people on Web

RESIDENTS can quiz police about crime in their area in a web chat activity next week. Insp Dez Lambert, who is responsible for neighbourhood teams across Halesowen and Stourbridge, will host the internet discussion next Tuesday between 6pm and 8pm. Residents can ask any

questions about neighbourhood policing issues of interest or of concern.

Topics of interest also to be covered include the five priorities for the Dudley borough previously requested by residents after consultation.

These include speeding, anti-social behaviour, burglary, drug related crime and retail theft.

Community meetings and the Neighbourhood Watch Association will also be up for discussion.

To take part in the web chat or to observe comments householders should visit the Dudley police homepage at [www.dudley-police.org.uk](http://www.dudley-police.org.uk) and click the "play" button.

## Activities have been scheduled at reserves

A HOST of activities will take place at nature reserves in Dudley over the coming weeks.

A walk through The Leasowes, Halesowen will take place on March 16 from 10am to noon to explore the Grade 1 listed site. This will also feature the new Coombsworth Nature Reserve.

Places need to be booked by on 01384 814642. Participants should meet at the wardens' base, off Mucklow Hill.

A six-mile walk will be at Buckpool and Pens Pool on March 21 from 10am to 1.30pm crossing the River Stour.

Walkers will set off from the wardens' office at Dell Stadium, at the junction of Bryce Road and Pensnett Road, Pensnett. Bookings can be made on 01384 812780.

## New deal for accountants

HALESOWEN chartered accountancy firm Nicklin has continued its expansion with another takeover deal, this time acquiring Crowther Beard of Worcester.

No price-tag is being put on the deal which is the second merger for Nicklin in the space of eight months.

The deal will see Crowther Beard, which also has an office in Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, changing its name to Nicklin, although it will continue to work from its present offices.

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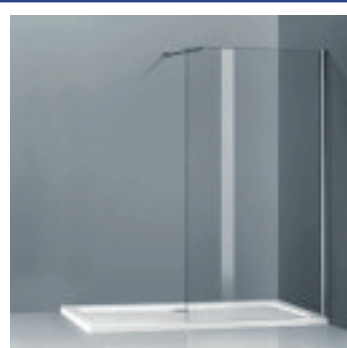
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During your stay you will tour the Ligurian coast with time in elegant Santa Margherita. This is followed by a boat trip to ultra-chic Portofino, which despite the crowds, glitz and glamour, remains one of the Mediterranean's most idyllic settings.

Perhaps one of the highlights of the holiday will be the trip to Florence, dominated by the dome of the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore and home to the famous galleries of Accademia and Uffizi (entrances payable locally).

Two optional excursions are also offered, the first visiting Pisa and Lucca, and the second to the Ligurian coast and the Cinque Terre, a quintet of ancient villages squeezed into a series of tiny coves.

### INFO

- Return flights from Manchester and London airports
- Seven nights half-board accommodation
- Full day visit to Portofino
- Full day tour to Florence
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by  
Newmarket Air Holidays (ABTA V7812, ATOL 2325)

## Kew Gardens Tree Tops Walk and Hampton Court

Two days departing June 22



**PRICE FROM £129**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Entrance to Kew Gardens and Rhizotron and Xstrata Treetop Walkway
- Entrance to Hampton Court Palace, Gardens and Maze
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

## Lindisfarne and The Alnwick Garden

Three days departing June 28 and Sept 20



**PRICE FROM £165**

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Entrance to The Alnwick Garden
- Visits to Durham, Bamburgh and Lindisfarne
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

## The Eden Project and the Lost Gardens of Heligan

Four days departing July 12 and 19



**PRICE FROM £249**

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Entrance to the Lost Gardens of Heligan and the Eden Project
- Visit to Torquay
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

## Norfolk Gardens and the Lavender Harvest

Three days departing July 19



**PRICE FROM £219**

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Tour of the Norfolk Lavender Fields and Distillery
- Cream tea
- Entrance to the Bressingham Steam Centre and Gardens
- Entrance to Sandringham House and Gardens
- Visit to Cambridge
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond (ABTA W0552)

## Royal Ascot on Ladies Day

Day trip departing June 20



**PRICE FROM £89.95**

- Return coach travel
- Brunch-time full English breakfast with a glass of sparkling wine
- Admission to the Silver Ring enclosure (upgrade offered)
- Services of a coach driver/tour representative

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

## Chelsea Flower Show

Two days departing May 24



**PRICE FROM £169.95**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Admission to the Chelsea Flower Show
- Visit to Windsor
- Services of a coach driver/tour representative
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

## London Shopping Breaks

Two days selected monthly departure dates



**PRICE FROM £99.95**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Free time in London for shopping and sightseeing
- Services of a coach driver/tour representative
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

## Spalding Flower Parade and Barnsdale Gardens

Two days departing May 4



**PRICE FROM £99.95**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Visit to Spalding Flower Parade
- Entrance to Geoff Hamilton's Barnsdale Gardens
- Visit to Stamford
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

## Dubrovnik, the Dalmatian Coast and Montenegro

Eight days various departure dates



**PRICE FROM £799**

- Return flights
- Seven nights half-board accommodation
- Tour of Dubrovnik
- Visits to Trogir and Mostar
- Tour of Montenegro
- Visit to Split and tour of the Emperor Diocletian's monumental palace
- Visit to Krka National Park and its waterfalls
- Escorted by a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

## Monet's Garden Rouen and Paris

Four days departing May 17, Aug 2, Oct 18



**PRICE FROM £175**

- Return coach travel and Channel crossings
- Three nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Visit to Giverny including admission to Monet's House and Gardens
- Visits to Rouen and Paris
- Optional excursions offered
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

## Bruges by Eurostar

Four days various departure dates



**PRICE FROM £249**

- Return standard class seat on Eurostar
- Return rail connection to London (selected dates)
- Return coach transfers overseas
- Three nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Guided walking tour of Bruges
- Visit to a traditional chocolate maker
- Visit to Ypres and the First World War battlefields
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Certain entrance fees payable locally  
Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744)





## NEWS

# Dramatic ins-purr-ation from a teacher and a cat

Young Wolverhampton actor Richard Astbury is returning to the city in the hit musical Cats. He talks to **Peter Madeley** about how he got into drama

**A YOUNG** Wolverhampton actor is coming home to perform the biggest role of his life in the hit musical *Cats* at the Grand Theatre.

And Richard Astbury is looking forward to playing in his home city.

"Some of my friends and family haven't seen me perform since my school days," the 21-year-old who family still live in Castlecroft said.

"The last time I played at the Grand was a small part in *West Side Story* when I was 17, but it's nice to return to Wolverhampton in such a big production.

"Cats is a show I have always wanted to do."

## Adapt

In preparation for his feline role, Richard was fortunate enough to receive some training from an expert.

He said: "My character, Coricopat, is a quiet cat with the ability to see what is happening before most of the other characters.

"Luckily I've got a cat at home called Shadow, and he was a real inspiration.

"Watching him move around at home helped me learn how to adapt my body to play the role of a cat."

Richard credits one of his former head teacher at Castlecroft Primary School for encouraging him to attend auditions as a youngster.

He said: "Tish Keech used to send me out to auditions all over the Midlands.

"She helped me to land lead roles in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* while I was in Year 5, and A



Richard Astbury as Coricopat in *Cats*, which coming to The Grand, and right, without his feline form



Christmas Carol the following year."

Richard continued honing his craft at Smeestow School and also spent time treading the boards at Stagecoach Theatre Arts School and Wolverhampton Musical Comedy Company.

Last year he gained a degree in musical theatre from Arts Education School, London.

"It was the most amazing three years of my life, and a great introduction into the professional world of musical theatre," he said.

Richard is currently in Edinburgh going through the final stages of rehearsals.

He said: "It has been an exhausting five weeks, but the whole experience has been very rewarding. We had to

learn the show in a short period of time, meaning eight hours of rehearsals each day."

Based on T.S. Eliot's *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*, Andrew Lloyd Webber's record-breaking musical is a real favourite with theatre goers.

Vicky Price, the Grand's PR manager, said: "Cats is returning to the Grand for the first time in a decade and promises to be a real highlight of our spring programme.

"As the only Midlands venue on the UK tour, the demand for tickets has been high and we are delighted with the responses we have had from audiences so far."

Cats opens at the Grand on March 19 and runs until March 30.

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SOUND - LIGHTS - DJ



# What's On! Halesowen

## Folk sound of the Fureys in concert

Irish folk music legends-The Fureys and Davey Arthur will be appearing for a special St Patrick's weekend concert on Saturday March 16 at Dudley Town Hall.

Renowned for their hits When You Were Sweet 16, The Green fields of France, Red Rose café, From Clare to here and many more The Fureys have been entertaining audiences worldwide for 35 years.

Their fans include former Irish President Mary McAleese.

The concert starts at 7.30pm and tickets are £20.00

## Dudley's darker side on display

COFFINS and cholera, monks and murder, riots, plagues, preachers, pickpockets and prostitutes are will be on show in a celebration of the darker side of Dudley.

They will all be around in a tour that will throw up some of the odd characters from Dudley's past.

Due to the content of some stories, it is not recommended for anyone under 16

The tour will start at the Court Public House, New Street on Sunday March 24 at 7pm. Tickets are £7.00

## Ken's happiness

KEN Dodd's Happiness Show is coming to Dudley Town Hall this weekend. The marathon show on Saturday March 9 starts at 7pm. Tickets are £20.00 and £18.00

# Phantom to haunt theatre with his music of the night

**THE PHANTOM of the Opera arrives at Birmingham Hippodrome on Wednesday for an eight-week season, the final venue on the much-loved show's 25th anniversary tour.**

Cameron Mackintosh's spectacular touring version marks a quarter century since Andrew Lloyd-Webber's blockbuster musical first opened in London's theatreland, where it still runs at Her Majesty's Theatre.

One of the most popular West End phantoms, Earl Carpenter, will don the mask as the eerie figure who controls the career of soprano Christine, played by Katie Hall, from behind the scenes... and murdering anyone at the Paris Opera who gets in the way of his ambitions for her.

The musical is known for its stunning set-pieces, including the Masquerade costume ball, the Phantom's subterranean lair and a certain something involving a chandelier.



Earl Carpenter is to portray The Phantom of the Opera  
Picture by Alistair Muir

## Angel

The songs have become some of the most popular in musical theatre, including The Music of the Night, Think of Me and All I Ask Of You.

Tickets to see the Phantom's doomed love affair with his 'Angel of Music' have been in such demand that the Hippodrome has put on extra matinee performances.

For the latest news on tickets see the theatre's website or call 0844 338 5000.

## Again, again, never again for Quo



Still rockin' - Rick Parfitt and Francis Rossi of Status Quo seen in action last year

THE Status Quo gigs at Wolverhampton Civic Hall tonight (Thursday) and on March 13 mark the only opportunities to catch the return of the original line-up.

Quo guitar stalwarts Francis Rossi and Rick Parfitt will be joined by Alan Lancaster and John Coghlan for a one-off set of reunion dates. These include two gigs at Wolverhampton after the March 13 concert sold out in minutes, prompting tonight's extra date.

## History

Status Quo manager Simon Porter said: "This is a real moment in the chequered history of Status Quo and it comes after 30 years of acrimony and ten years of law suits and court battles. Just two years ago the thought of the Frantic Four performing again was unthinkable. Now, 50 years on from when Francis and Alan first performed together as school-boys, it is fitting that everything has come full circle."

Tonight's gig at the Civic is also set to sell out the venue.

## Unmythable time at the Town Hall

**LEGENDARY** Greek heroes are all set to take you on a journey of a life-time.

The greatest myths from Jason and the Argonauts to the Odyssey and the man with the original golden touch King Midas are packed into just one hour.

Whether you're new to Greek myths or a diehard fan, come onboard for Unmythable, the award-winning theatre, storytelling and songs.

Stourbridge Town Hall will be scene of epic fights and fantastical flights in an adventure which has something for everyone.

The show starts at 1.30pm on Friday March 15. Tickets are £7.00.

School parties will be in attendance at the show.

## Bronte's story of devotion and love

CHARLOTTE Bronte's classic Jane Eyre will be performed by Dudley Little Theatre until Saturday March 9.

The story is of the love of a plain but passionate girl for the embittered and lonely Mr Rochester.

The performances will be at the Netherthorn Arts Centre at 7.30pm and tickets are £7 for adults and £6 concession.

## Sketchbook show

THE Fox Sketchbook is an exhibition by Dudley Museum and Art Gallery of recently gained works, from local artist Ernest Fox which are on show until March 9, entry is free.

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- **WELLSBOURNE MARKET & STRATFORD UPON AVON**  
Saturday 6th April (2 seats £20)
- **DRAYTON MANOR THEME PARK & ZOO**  
Tuesday 9th April (Half Term)
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Saturday 13th April (Half Term)
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## What's On!

## SATURDAY'S TV 9.03.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

## CHOICE



Jonathan Ross

The Jonathan Ross Show  
ITV, 9.20pm

In 1978, Grease became one of the best-loved musicals of all time; it spawned three number ones for Olivia Newton-John, and helped breathe new life into her career. Despite subsequent film vehicles Xanadu, and Two of a Kind failing to recapture the same magic, her 1981 album Physical became a soundtrack for the "Jane Fonda Workout" generation. Recently a new wave of fans have become devoted to her, thanks to appearances on Glee and the ongoing appeal of Grease. This week, Olivia drops into the studio to plug her UK tour.

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Nigel Slater's Simple Cooking. (R) **12.00** BBC News. Regional News: Weather. **12.15** Football Focus. **1.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. **4.25** BBC News: Regional News: Weather. **4.35** Live Six Nations Rugby Union.

**7.00** Let's Dance for Comic Relief. Alex Jones and Steve Jones present as the finalists – including Tim Vine, The Soap Stars, Antony Cotton and Katherine Ryan – take to the floor one last time. Last in the series.

**8.25** The National Lottery: In It To Win It. Dale Winton presents the quiz in which five contestants pit their wits to scoop a big cash prize. Includes the National Lottery draws, presented by Jenni Falconer.

**9.15** Casualty. Ash and Zoe struggle to make a teenage boy accept the severity of his father's condition, while Linda helps a pregnant woman cope with her no-good boyfriend.

**10.05** BBC News: Weather.

**10.25** Match of the Day. Highlights of the latest matches in the Premier League, including Reading v Aston Villa at the Madejski Stadium and Queens Park Rangers v Sunderland at Loftus Road; National Lottery Update.

**11.25** The Football League Show. Highlights and all the goals from today's fixtures in the Championship, League One and League Two, including Crystal Palace v Leeds United at Selhurst Park.

**12.35** Film: Color of Night. (1994) Thriller, starring Bruce Willis. **2.30** Weatherview. **2.35** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.00** This Is BBC Two. **7.30** Great British Menu. (R) **8.00** Great British Menu. (R) **8.30** Great British Menu. (R) **9.00** Great British Menu. (R) **9.30** Great British Menu. (R) **10.00** A History of Britain by Simon Schama. (R) **11.00** Meet the Ancestors. (R) **11.30** The Sky at Night. (R) **11.50** Coast. **12.00** Indian Food Made Easy. (R) **12.30** Mastermind. (R) **1.00** University Challenge. (R) **1.30** Talking Pictures. **2.20** Film: The Man from Laramie. (1955) Western, starring James Stewart. **4.00** Coast. (R) **4.30** Final Score. **5.30** Flog It! **6.30** Your Paintings: A Culture Show Special. Alastair Sooke and Bendor Grosvenor explore a website showcasing all publicly owned oil paintings held in collections across the United Kingdom.

**7.30** Top Gear Africa Special – Part One. Part one of two. Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May visit Africa on a mission to find the definitive source of the Nile using grit, ingenuity and ageing estate cars. (R)

**8.30** Dad's Army. An exercise with the regular army goes well, until Mainwaring assumes the role of an enemy agent. Comedy, starring Arthur Lowe and Olive Dunn. (R)

**9.00** Film: Made in Dagenham. (2010) Premiere. Fact-based comedy drama, starring Sally Hawkins and Miranda Richardson.

**10.50** Ford's Dagenham Dream. The changing fortunes of the car manufacturer. (R)

**11.50** Film: Bat '21. (1988) Vietnam War drama, starring Gene Hackman.

**1.30** This Is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00** CITV: Mickey Mouse Clubhouse. **6.25** The Hive. (R) **6.35** The Hive. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Dino Dan. (R) **7.10** Canimals. (R) **7.20** Canimals. (R) **7.25** Bookaboo. **7.40** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **8.05** Ultimate Spider-Man. **8.30** Victrolas. **9.00** Jessie. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.25** My Tasty Travels with Lynda Bellingham. (R) **11.25** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **12.10** ITV News: Weather. **12.15** Live FA Cup Football. **3.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special. (R) **4.00** Midsomer Murders. (R)

**6.00** Regional Programme: Weather.

**6.15** ITV News: Weather.

**6.30** You've Been Framed! Motorcycle mayhem, garden-based gaffes and swimming pool slip-ups. (R)

**7.00** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. Little Ant and Dec interview Justin Bieber.

**8.20** The Cube. A personal trainer and an occupational therapist try to complete a series of increasingly difficult tasks in the hope of winning a jackpot of £250,000. Phillip Schofield hosts.

**9.20** The Jonathan Ross Show. With Keith Lemon, Olivia Newton-John and Nicole Scherzinger.

**10.20** ITV News: Weather.

**10.35** FA Cup Football Highlights. Action from the first two sixth-round ties.

**11.35** Celebrity Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? Mother's Day Special. With David Williams, Oily Murs and Patsy Palmer. (R)

**12.40** Jackpot247. Interactive gaming. **3.00** In Plain Sight. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen.

## CHANNEL 4

**6.15** Sali Mali. (R) **6.20** The Treacle People. (R) **6.35** The Grid. **7.00** Jump Boys: Channel 4 Racing. **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.55** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.55** Frasier. (R) **10.50** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.20** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.45** The Simpsons. (R) **12.20** The Simpsons. (R) **12.45** Undercover Boss USA. (R) **1.45** Channel 4 Racing. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.45** Come Dine with Me. (R)

**6.15** Come Dine with Me. Susan Rogers hosts the final evening in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire. (R)

**6.45** Channel 4 News.

**6.55** 4thought.tv. A member of the public talks about atheist "churches".

**7.00** The Queen's Hidden Cousins. Two nieces of the Queen Mother who were born with learning difficulties. (R)

**8.00** Kevin McCloud's Man Made Home. An experiment where dog excrement is used to create methane. (R)

**9.00** Film: Skyline. (2010) Premiere. A couple try to escape when alien spacecraft descend from the sky, mesmerising and capturing the humans below. Sci-fi thriller, with Eric Balfour and Scottie Thompson.

**10.50** Film: The Hole. (2001) Thriller, with Thora Birch and Keira Knightley.

**12.50** Ricky Gervais: Science. (R) **1.45** Hollyoaks. **3.50** What's Fufu? (R) **3.55** Deal or No Deal. (R) **4.50** Countdown. (R) **5.35** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R) **5.45** Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! **10.10** Power Rangers Samurai. (R) **10.45** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. **11.05** Inside Hollywood. **11.10** Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge. (R) **12.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.15** Film: Carnal Innocence. (2011) **3.05** Film: Columbo: A Trace of Murder. (1997) **4.55** Film: Yanks. (1979) **7.15** 5 News Weekend.

**7.20** CSI: NY. A model is found apparently electrocuted in a giant Martini glass high above Times Square, and a robbery-homicide at a restaurant turns into a full-blown hostage crisis. (R)

**8.10** NCIS. The team heads into the desert to locate an artist who might be able to help solve the murder of a fellow agent, and DiNozzo learns he is in line for an inheritance. (R)

**9.10** NCIS. Vance insists on taking charge of an investigation into the fatal shooting of a boxer – but finds his past coming under scrutiny as the case unfolds. (R)

**10.05** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. A couple are found murdered in a truck, prompting the detectives to investigate a Mexican drug cartel linked to one of the victims – but the case proves more complex than expected.

**11.00** Law & Order: Criminal Intent. A murder is linked to a psychological study.

**11.55** Inside Hollywood. Magazine show. (R)

**12.05** SuperCasino. **4.00** HouseBusters. (R) **4.25** Divine Designs. (R) **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.15** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.40** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Three**  
**7.00** Merlin **7.45** Doctor Who **8.35** Film: The Sorcerer's Apprentice (2010) **10.15** Bluestone 42 **10.45** World's Craziest Fools **11.15** Family Guy

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** Britain's Natural World – A Highland Haven **8.00** Carved with Love: The Genius of British Woodwork **9.00** Spiral 4: State of Terror **10.50** Blondie: One Way or Another

**ITV2**  
**3.35** You've Been Framed! **6.10** Film: Beethoven (1991) **7.55** Film: Ocean's Thirteen (2007) **10.20** Celebrity Juice **11.10** Film: Love Actually (2003)

**ITV3**  
**3.55** Film: The Magnificent Two (1987) **5.50** Agatha Christie's Poirot **6.55** Lewis. A man is found dead in the Bodleian Library basement. **9.00** Foyle's War **11.05** Film: Dead Calm (1989)

**ITV4**  
**3.00** Tartan Triumphs **4.00** Amazing Argentina **5.00** Film: Destry (1954) **7.00** TT Legends **7.30** GT Academy **8.00** River Monsters: Killer Sharks and Rays **9.00** Film: Kull the Conqueror (1957) **11.00** Film: Enter the Dragon (1973)

**E4**  
**3.35** Rules of Engagement **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** Happy Endings **8.00** How I Met Your Mother **8.30** 2 Broke Girls **9.00** Film: Date Movie (2006) **10.50** Film: Ricky Gervais: Science **11.45** The Big Bang Theory

**ITV4**  
**2.35** Swiss Family Robinson (1960) **5.10** The Last Mimzy (2007) **7.00** Turner & Hooch (1989) **9.00** Hitman (2007) **10.50** Eli Roth on Horror **10.55** The Last Exorcism (2010)

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## What's On!

Listings supplied by Press Association

## SUNDAY'S TV 10.03.13

## CHOICE



Douglas Henshall

## Shetland

## BBC1, 9pm

Douglas Henshall has popped up in a number of dramas lately, including *Doors Open* and *The Secret of Crickley Hall*. He's clearly been a very busy man because he's back again in this two-parter, playing Detective Jimmy Perez, who returns to Shetland after years away. But his homecoming isn't going to be as quiet and undemanding as he'd hoped for. Archaeologist Hattie James discovers some suspicious human remains, and the owner of the croft on which they were found, is subsequently murdered.

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **7.55** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics: Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.25** Countryfile. (R) **1.20** Call the Midwife. (R) **2.20** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. **5.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.30** Songs of Praise.

**6.05** **Deadly 60 on a Mission.** Komodo dragons, Bengal tigers and Egyptian vultures in Asia.

**6.35** **BBC News:** Regional News; Weather.

**7.00** **Countryfile: A Royal Appointment.** The team visits Prince Charles's Gloucestershire estate for a special edition in which his royal highness talks about his passion for the countryside and love of organic farming. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

**8.00** **Call the Midwife.** Chummy and Peter prepare for the arrival of their baby and Jenny's love life is looking up – but then the future of the convent comes under threat. Last in the series.

**9.00** **Shetland.** A woman's shooting in the Shetlands leads the police to investigate a long-standing feud between two families. Two-part murder mystery, starring Douglas Henshall.

**10.00** **BBC News:** Regional News; Weather.

**10.25** **Match of the Day 2.** Highlights of the day's Premier League contests.

**11.25** **Regional Programme.**

**11.55** **The Apprentice USA.** The teams help to promote a new perfume.

**12.40** **The Apprentice USA.** **1.25** Weatherview. **1.30** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.00** This Is BBC Two. **6.50** **Film:** The Las Vegas Story. (1952) **8.15** Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein. (R) **8.45** Gardeners' World. (R) **9.15** The A to Z of TV Gardening. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** The Little Paris Kitchen: Cooking with Rachel Khoo. (R) **12.00** EastEnders. (R) **2.15** Coast. **3.00** Sea City. (R) **3.30** Sea City. (R) **4.00** Sea City. (R) **4.30** Restoration Home. (R) **5.30** Flog It! **6.30** **Food & Drink.** A discussion on Italian food with guest Angela Hartnett. (R)

**7.00** **Dragons' Den.** An ex-boxer's pitching style proves to be a big hit, a chip-shop owner showers the panel in confetti and three friends from north London demonstrate their mining skills. (R)

**8.00** **Top Gear Africa Special – Part Two.** Part two of two. Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May conclude their quest to find the source of the River Nile in Africa using three old estate cars. Last in the series.

**9.00** **Toughest Place to Be a Taxi Driver.** New series. A London cabbie tests his skills on the roads of Mumbai.

**10.00** **Mock the Week Looks Back at Animals.** A selection from the show's archives on the theme of animals.

**10.30** **Dancing on the Edge: Interviewing Louis.** Companion piece to Stephen Pollakoff's drama, starring Chivette Ejor.

**11.35** **Six Nations Rugby Union.** Highlights of the fourth round of matches.

**12.20** **Film:** Catch a Fire. (2006)

**1.55** Sign Zone. **Holly City.** (R) **2.55** Being Eileen. (R) **3.25** This Is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00** CITV: Mickey Mouse Clubhouse. **6.25** The Hive. (R) **6.35** The Hive. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Dino Dan. (R) **7.10** Animals. (R) **7.20** Animals. **7.25** Bookaboo. **7.40** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **8.05** Rated A for Awesome. **8.15** Rated A for Awesome. **8.30** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **8.45** Almost Naked Animals. **9.00** The Aquabats Super Show. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.20** Murder. She Wrote. (R) **11.20** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** **Film:** Carry On Girls. (1973) **2.10** Doc Martin. (R) **3.15** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **4.00** Live FA Cup Football.

**6.45** **Regional Programme:** Weather.

**6.50** **ITV News:** Weather.

**7.00** **Dancing on Ice.** The three remaining stars battle it out in the final, and the two most popular go on to skate a self-choreographed version of Torvill and Dean's Bolero routine. Last in the series.

**9.00** **Mr Selfridge.** King Edward VII invites Harry to be his guest on the first night of Ellen Love's play at the theatre, and Rose agrees to attend – but soon regrets her decision. Last in the series.

**10.00** **ITV News at Ten:** Weather.

**10.15** **FA Cup Football Highlights.** Action from the concluding two sixth-round ties, which were Millwall v Blackburn Rovers at the Den and Manchester United v Chelsea at Old Trafford.

**11.15** **Anglo-Welsh Cup Rugby Union.** Highlights of Harlequins v Bath and Sale Sharks v Saracens.

**12.10** The Store. **2.15** Monk. (R) **3.00** **ITV Newsnight.** **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

## CHANNEL 4

**6.15** The Hoobs. (R) **6.40** The Hoobs. (R) **7.05** Freeports on 4. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.55** The Simpsons. (R) **1.25** The Simpsons. (R) **1.55** Undercover Boss USA. (R) **2.55** Deal or No Deal. **3.55** Time Team. **4.55** Channel 4 News. **5.25** 4thought.tv. **5.30** Crufts 2013: Best in Show. Clare Balding presents highlights of the final day.

**8.00** **Secrets of the Stonehenge.** Documentary following archaeologist Mike Parker Pearson and a research team as they analyse bodies buried beneath the prehistoric monument in Wiltshire.

**9.00** **Film: Limitless.** (2011) Premiere. A failed writer acquires a drug that increases his brain power, but his new abilities attract dangerous attention. Sci-fi thriller, with Bradley Cooper and Robert De Niro.

**11.05** **Film: Splice.** (2009) Premiere. Two scientists create a new creature by mixing DNA from humans and animals, but the experiment soon gets out of control. Sci-fi horror, with Adrien Brody and Sarah Polley.

**12.55** Gogglebox. Weekly TV review programme. (R) **1.40** **Film:** The Pawnbroker. (1965) Drama, starring Rod Steiger. **3.40** Southland. Tang is involved in a shooting. **4.20** Deal or No Deal. Beat-the-banker game show. (R) **5.15** Kyle's Handmade Treasures. (R) **5.25** Countdown. With Chris Packham. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **6.30** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.45** Olive the Ostrich. (R) **6.50** Abby's Flying Fairy School. (R) **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.20** Animal Antics. (R) **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.40** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **7.45** City of Friends. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.20** Mio Mao. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.40** Castle Farm. (R) **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Toby's Travelling Circus. **9.30** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.40** Jelly Jam. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers Samurai. (R) **10.35** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. **11.00** Inside Hollywood 2013. **11.05** Once Upon a Time. (R) **12.00** Mum of the Year Awards 2013. **1.35** **Film:** Are We Done Yet? (2007) **3.20** **Film:** Space Jam. (1996) **5.00** **Film:** Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed. (2004) Comedy adventure sequel, with Sarah Michelle Gellar.

**6.40** **5 News Weekend.**

**6.45** **Film: Rocky II.** (1979) Drama sequel, with Sylvester Stallone, Talia Shire and Carl Weathers.

**9.00** **Person of Interest.** The Machine directs Finch to an abandoned six-month-old girl.

**10.00** **Film: Drive Angry.** (2011) Premiere. Fantasy thriller, starring Nicolas Cage.

**12.05** CCTVCities. (R) **1.05** SuperCasino. **4.00** HouseBusters. (R) **4.25** Divine Designs. (R) **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.15** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Three**  
**7.00** Let's Dance for Comic Relief  
**8.30** **Film:** Lara Croft: Tomb Raider (2001) **10.00** Being Human **11.00** Bluestone 42 **11.30** Family Guy

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** Arena: Ken Dodd – Happiness  
**8.00** Parks and Recreation **8.40** Minuscule: The Private Life of Insects **9.00** **Film:** The Aviator (2004) **11.35** Totally British: 70s Rock

**ITV2**  
**3.25** **Film:** The Mighty Ducks (1992) **5.30** **Film:** Beethoven's 2nd (1993) **7.15** **Film:** Hulk (2003)

**10.00** The Only Way Is Essex **10.50** Big Rich Texas **11.50** Celebrity Juice

**ITV3**  
**3.50** Lewis **5.55** Dancing on Ice Live Tour 2012 **6.55** Agatha Christie's Poirot **9.00** **Film:** Air America (1990) **11.15** Wycliffe

**ITV4**  
**3.00** **Film:** Destry (1954) **5.00** **Film:** The Bubs (1989) **7.00** The Sweeney **8.00** **Film:** Any Which Way You Can (1980) **11.15** **Film:** Serenity (2005)

**4.05** Revenge **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **6.00** New Girl **7.00** How I Met Your Mother **8.00** **Film:** Volcano (1997) **10.00** Rude Tube **11.00** The Big Bang Theory: It All Started with a Big Bang **11.35** The Big Bang Theory

**Film4**  
**3.15** Honey, I Blew Up the Kid (1992) **5.00** The Wizard of Oz (1939) **7.05** Down with Love (2003) Romantic comedy set in the 1960s, starring Ewan McGregor and Renee Zellweger. **9.00** Dorian Gray (2009) Horror, starring Ben Barnes, Colin Firth and Ben Chaplin. **11.10** Lucky Number Slewin (2006)

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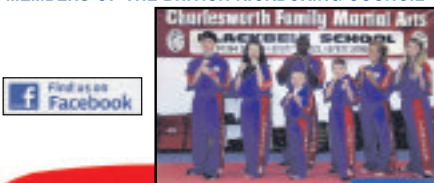
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## What's On!

### Film Choices

#### MONDAY

##### Passenger 57, Channel 5, 11pm

After his wife is shot dead during a robbery, a cop hands in his badge and takes up a job offer from an old friend to be a security adviser for a major transatlantic airline. On the flight taking him to his new employers in Los Angeles is an international terrorist being escorted to trial by the FBI – while the prisoner's accomplices are disguised as passengers and crew and plan to hijack the plane. Action thriller, with Wesley Snipes, Bruce Payne and Tom Sizemore. (1992)

#### TUESDAY

##### Racing for Time, BBC1, 12.20am

A guard at a facility for teenage offenders is struck by the racial tensions between the female inmates, and resolves to bring them together. He organises the girls into a track team, and encourages them to break down the divisions between them as they strive to turn their lives around. Fact-based drama, directed by and starring Charles S Dutton. With Elizabeth Pena. (2008)



Fight Club, Friday, Channel 4, 11.20pm

#### WEDNESDAY

##### Ruthless People, BBC1, 11.40pm

Selfish tycoon Sam Stone plans to murder his wife, only to find she has been kidnapped. He creates a media circus, hoping it will encourage the kidnappers to do his dirty work for him, but fails to realise the couple holding his wife hostage are a timid pair not cut out for a life of crime. Meanwhile, Sam's mistress thinks he really has killed his wife, and plans to blackmail him. Comedy, with Danny DeVito and Bette Midler. (1986)

#### THURSDAY

##### There Will Be Blood, BBC2, 11.20pm

An oil prospector presents the public image of a caring family man while nurturing a murderous ambition to seize control of land and wealth at any cost. But his insatiable greed leads to a violent conflict with a young priest who is also intent on using the power and resources of an oil-rich town for his own ends. Paul Thomas Anderson's historical drama, starring an Oscar-winning Daniel Day-Lewis, with Paul Dano and Dillon Freasier. (2007)

#### FRIDAY

##### Fight Club, Channel 4, 11.20pm

A disillusioned office worker grows weary of his humdrum existence, but after meeting the mysterious Tyler Durden he finds fulfillment in establishing a club where similarly frustrated men come to vent their anger in bouts of bare-knuckle fighting. Satirical drama directed by David Fincher, starring Edward Norton, Brad Pitt, Helena Bonham Carter, Meat Loaf and Jared Leto. (1999)

### Pick of the Week

## Jimmy takes a shot in the dark on his new case

Influenced by both mainland Scotland and Scandinavia, the Shetland islands is a location like no other. For award-winning writer Anne Cleeves, the uniqueness and sense of place made it an ideal setting for her novel Red Bones, a traditional British crime drama with a unique twist.

Cleeves' work has been adapted into the two-part drama Shetland being shown on consecutive nights, with Douglas Henshall assuming the role of Detective Jimmy Perez, a native Shetlander and widower who has decided to return home with his step-daughter so she can be near her biological father.

Needless to say, it's not too long before his professional skills are called upon when a young archaeologist discovers a set of human remains that could be more recent than may be considered appropriate.

Henshall's Scottish accent is, of course, entirely genuine, though he was born in urban Glasgow rather than the rural splendours of Shetland: "I always thought of Shetland as being a place that was so remote it was always in a wee

box during the weather. Sometimes I wonder if people really know where it is or what it's like, what the people are like and what goes on there."

A veteran of such TV dramas as Lipstick on Your Collar, Psychos and Primeval, Henshall is keen to dismiss notions that Perez fits into the same stereotype as so many other sleuths juggling their work with domestic obligations: "He's not one of those haunted types with lots of problems, he's actually a straightforward man who would just like a quiet life."

Adaptor David Kane is full of praise for the drama's leading man: "Douglas makes a wonderful Perez, and gives the performance of his career."

Kane faced the unenviable task of taking someone else's work and transferring it in a way that pleases all concerned, but it's a craft he has honed over the years. "The biggest consideration when adapting a novel for TV is to get the essence of the story the writer wanted to get across even if you have to change certain parts of the plot." Some of the alterations can be quite radical, even to the point of supplementing the

characters, which he did here by creating DC Alison MacIntosh. "I created Tosh to work with Perez, in the hope the warmth of their relationship would counterbalance the darkness of the story," he adds.

Writer Cleeves admits it's a little unnerving seeing her written work played out before her eyes: "Occasionally the dialogue is taken almost exactly from the book and that is a bit spooky, as if my characters have come to life. Usually though, although the adaptation captures the spirit of the original, it's quite a different form. I can watch it and enjoy it as any other viewer would."

The hope is that a warm reception to Shetland will lead to a further commission. After all, Cleeves has written a quartet of tales set on the islands.

And anyone thinking the Shetland region is low on population and therefore has limited potential for serious crime has clearly learned nothing from the likes of Bergerac and Midsomer Murders. There are some strange folk living in wild and lonely places...



Douglas Henshall stars in Shetland, Sunday, BBC1, 9pm

### Best of the Rest

#### MONDAY

##### A History of Syria with Dan Snow BBC2, 9pm

This new one-off documentary sees the broadcaster travel to the Middle East on a journey to explore the fascinating and tumultuous history that lies behind the civil war now raging in Syria. He explains how the country has a tumultuous past, and the impact that has on today's conflict – as what started as peaceful protests against President Bashar al-Assad's totalitarian regime have turned increasingly into a struggle along sectarian lines involving global and regional powers. He visits Roman temples, the centre of the world's greatest Islamic empire, crusader castles and today's battlegrounds in a bid to piece together the complex history of a strategically important region at the heart of the Middle East.

##### Embarrassing Bodies Channel 4, 9pm

There's a lot to be said for the docs at the heart of this programme. Poxie, Christian and Dawn are bigger people than us – after all, we can briefly turn our heads away from the telly if we don't like the look of something – they have to persevere. This week, they're propping up their portable clinic at the Bristol Balloon Fiesta. Meanwhile, Dr Dawn meets a new mum with a painful post-pregnancy problem.

#### TUESDAY

##### Live UEFA Champions League ITV, 7.30pm

There have been suggestions recently that Barcelona are not the team they used to be. Their

two-legged Copa Del Rey defeat at the hands of arch-rivals Real Madrid a fortnight ago was preceded by a 2-0 away defeat at the hands of Italian giants AC Milan in the first half of their UEFA Champions League last-16 tie. So have Lionel Messi, Andres Iniesta, Xavi and co lost their mojo since former manager Pep Guardiola departed last year? Don't count on it. Milan should certainly beware of this wounded animal when they meet again because Barca will be going all out for goals at the Nou Camp.

##### W hale Adventure with Nigel Marven Channel 5, 8pm

As the song says, some guys have all the luck. Take Nigel Marven, for instance. He has none of the drudgery of a nine-to-five office job. Instead, he's out and about, taking trips to far-flung places in search of amazing animal stories. His latest sees him journeying along the Pacific coast of North America from Mexico to Alaska. He's on the trail of a grey whale mother and her newborn calf as they abandon their summer feeding grounds before heading for the icy seas of the Arctic. Nigel's epic journey begins in Baja's San Ignacio lagoon, where the calf is born and learns some much-needed swimming skills.

#### WEDNESDAY

##### EastEnders BBC1, 8pm

Poor Bianca – if she's guilty of anything, it's being too trusting in her son, Liam. Following her

shocking discovery of Tamwar's money belt in his room last night, her world has come crashing down around her – yet still she refuses to believe that the lad could have had anything to do with Tamwar's mugging. Her faith could be her undoing, however, when the police come calling asking to speak with Liam about his whereabouts at the time of the assault. Bianca's not the only worried mum in Walford, as Abi discovers when she sneaks home in the middle of the night to find Tanya has been waiting up for her. A blazing row soon erupts, as the teen's activities come to light.

##### The Mimic Channel 4, 10pm

You have to admire Terry Mynott: he's managed to find a platform that showcases his passion for both impersonations and acting – in this new sitcom, Mynott stars as Martin Hurdle, a maintenance man who's got an uncanny ability to mimic voices. There's not a right lot to be said about Martin's life – he's been stuck in the same dead end job for over seven years and not much remarkable ever happens to him. Until now, as it emerges that he could be the father of 18-year-old Steven. Jacob Anderson, Jo Hartley co-stars.



A History of Syria with Dan Snow, Monday, BBC2, 9pm

#### THURSDAY

##### Born to Be Different Channel 4, 9pm

Ask any little person about the troubles that come hand in hand with growing up and they will reel off all manner of woes such as the fact that they didn't get the monster truck they wanted for their birthday, or that so-and-so at school keeps telling the teacher on them. But for the six youngsters in this film, their issues run much deeper. This award-winning documentary series has followed a group of children each born with a disability, and has offered intricate insights into what it's like to grow up with a disability as they face important transitions in their lives; this time, they're moving from primary to secondary school. Stories include that of Hamish, who was born with achondroplasia (commonly known as 'dwarfism').

##### FRIDAY Comic Relief – Funny for Money BBC1, 7pm

Now in its 25th year, the biennial Red Nose Day is back, and the likes of Lenny Henry, Dermot O'Leary and Claudia Winkleman are on hand to raise cash to help thousands in Africa and the UK. Rowan Atkinson hopes to tickle a few ribs as the new Archbishop of Canterbury, and Jessie J will have her head shaved in the studio. Global superstars One Direction belt out their Comic Relief single; Miranda Hart appears in a light-hearted take on Call the Midwife, while Miss Piggy also makes an appearance... and that's just in the first hour. So turn on, laugh loud, dig deep and save lives.

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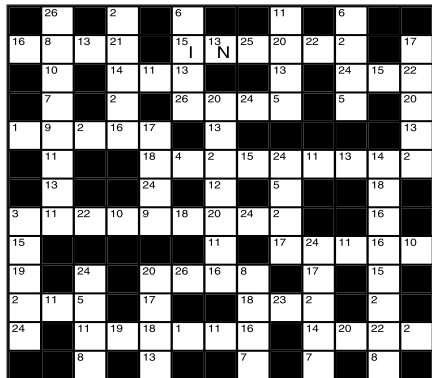
# What's On!

## Brain Gym

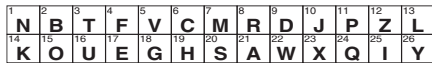
No.211

### Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



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### Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

#### Cryptic Clues:

##### Across

- 1 & 13 Ac. When the secretary finishes the record of the meeting? (2,3,4,6)
8. Unfinished top copy (3)
9. Backing that gives a sign of approval (11)
11. Checks the school books again for observations (7)
12. Make a proportionate distribution from a national lottery (5)
13. See 1 across (7)
15. Went into a clinch and barred the entrance (6)
17. Medical officer goes to the right vehicle (5)
18. Broadcast routes for flying concerns (7)
20. She won't play safe! (11)
22. Endless cycle of duty - that's complete nonsense (3)
23. Test racer converted for public transport (6-3)

##### Down

2. Net return reveals the amount (3)
3. Dreaded object be-headed - that must be wrong (5)
4. Declares the East is showing reluctance (6)
5. It protects one of the low joints (3-4)
6. The creature to treat ankles badly! (11)
7. Current changes showing little rise and fall (4-5)
10. Show what discontented groups do (11)
11. Isn't oblivious about the people in the society (9)
14. The man who succeeds does (7)
16. One who won't allow the standard to be kept up? (6)
19. This way sounds decidedly radical (5)
21. South Pennsylvania where people go to convalesce (3)

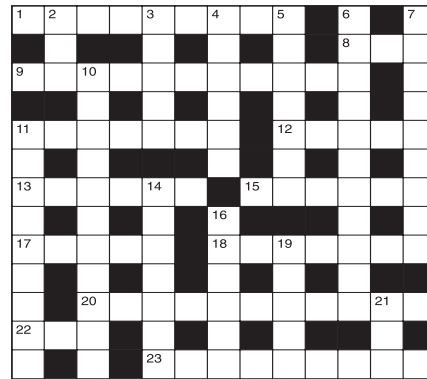
#### Quick Clues:

##### Across

1. Journal (9)
8. Possess (3)
9. Meaning (11)
11. Agitation (7)
12. Mistake (5)
13. Harmony (6)
15. Firm (6)
17. Heavenly body (5)
18. Caller (7)
20. Change direction (5,6)
22. Transgression (3)
23. Dock worker (9)

##### Down

2. Tree (3)
3. Value highly (5)
4. Inserts (6)
5. Apparel (7)
6. Writer for a publication (11)
7. Underclothes (9)
10. Go separate ways (4,7)
11. Right to vote (9)
14. Revolves (7)
16. Unwilling (6)
19. Inclination (5)
21. Prefix to Knight's name (3)

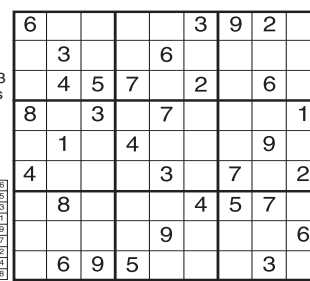


LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:  
CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Stills; 8 Groove; 10 Pasture; 11 Forge; 12 Idol; 13 Berth; 17 Cheat; 18 Evil; 22 Ariel; 23 Entrant; 24 Misuse; 25 Encore.  
Down: 1 Aseptic; 2 Mission; 3 Flour; 4 Profit; 5 Board; 6 Never; 9 Generates; 14 The less; 15 Aviator; 16 Flatten; 19 Palms; 20 First; 21 Atone. QUICK - Across: 7 Happen; 8 Polite; 10 Traduce; 11 Sight; 12 Lees; 13 Split; 17 Heart; 18 Know; 22 Lower; 23 Tension; 24 Strive; 25 Funnel. Down: 1 Whittle; 2 Apparel; 3 Begun; 4 Worship; 5 Dingy; 6 Jetty; 9 Desperate; 14 Reprove; 15 Ancient; 16 Twinkle; 19 Bless; 20 Swamp; 21 Annul.

### Sudoku

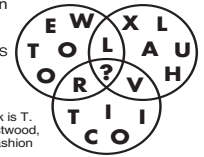
Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:  
2 9 3 1 7 4 9 8  
9 1 4 2 3 6 8 7 5  
5 6 7 8 9 4 1 2 3  
4 3 5 7 2 1 5 8 6  
7 5 2 3 1 8 6 4 9  
8 9 1 6 4 5 2 3 7  
1 4 8 7 6 3 1 9 2  
3 2 9 5 6 1 7 6 4  
6 7 5 4 2 9 3 1 8



### Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:  
The letter represented by the question mark is T. Gaultier, Westwood, Vuitton, all Fashion Designers.

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# Home of Property

Your top property guide for Dudley, Halesowen, Sedgley, Kidderminster and Stourbridge

## Well-presented property is on the market for £159,950



The property is nicely-presented throughout, including this airy lounge

**DESCRIBED** by agents as beautifully appointed and superbly presented, this three-bedroom semi-detached home in Sedgley is on the market priced at £159,950.

The house in Northway benefits from uPVC double glazing and gas central heating, with accommodation briefly comprising of reception porch, reception hall, lounge, sitting room/dining room, fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, three bedrooms, bathroom and garage.

On the ground floor the lounge, 13ft by 10ft 11in, has an attractive fireplace with open fire while the sitting room/dining room measuring 17ft 5in by 10ft 11in also has a fireplace with inset living flame pebble effect gas fire and French door to the rear garden.

The fitted kitchen, 10ft by 7ft 4in, has a range of wall and base units, round edge work surfaces, one-and-a-half bowl sink with mixer tap, integrated appliances including oven, hob, extractor fan and fridge and door to the garage.

On the first floor are three bedrooms and a bathroom with white suite of P-shaped bath, shower cubicle, WC and pedestal wash hand basin. Outside to the front is a block paved driveway to the garage, while the rear garden is mainly laid to lawn with plants and shrubbery.

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A block paved drive leads to the garage and entrance to the semi-detached

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£675 PCM



### HALESOWEN, NEWTON COURT

A recently converted three bedroom top floor penthouse apartment finished to an extremely high standard and centrally located with commuter links to Halesowen and Birmingham. Featuring 2 double bedrooms, both with fitted wardrobes, 2 bathrooms, one single bedroom, secondary glazing throughout. Allocated parking. Viewings recommended. EPC = C

£650 PCM



### HALESOWEN, SANDERSON PLACE

Luxury living in Hayley Green. This superb luxury 1st floor apartment offers spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, a further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. Available Mid April 2013. EPC = B

£650 PCM



### DUDLEY, STOURBRIDGE ROAD

Totally refurbished to a good standard. A terraced four bedroom property close to Dudley town centre featuring a lovely entrance hall with minton flooring, charming lounge and separate dining room with feature fireplace, new large kitchen with overhead, downstairs wc, family bathroom with shower and a wonderful rear garden. Viewings recommended to appreciate this property. Available immediately. EPC = F

£625 PCM



### MERRY HILL, MADISON AVENUE

Flexible accommodation. A spacious unfurnished modern townhouse, within walking distance of Merry Hill shopping centre, featuring kitchen, downstairs WC, dining room/study, lounge, bathroom, 3 bedrooms, master ensuite shower room, allocated parking space. EPC = C

£595 PCM



### OLDBURY, MEHDI ROAD

Situated in a quiet cul-de-sac. This modern unfurnished three storey townhouse comprises 3 bedrooms, master bedroom with en-suite, large lounge, fitted kitchen, gas central heating, double glazing, downstairs wc, house bathroom with shower, allocated parking space, small rear garden. EPC = C

£595 PCM



### TIPTON, PEARTREE AVENUE

Cul-de-sac location. This deceptively large 3 bedroom terraced house is undergoing a re-decoration and re-carpeting. It features a spacious lounge, large modern fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, nice sized garden, driveway parking and in a quiet cul-de-sac location. EPC = C

£550 PCM



### HALESOWEN, HAGLEY STREET

Fantastic refurbishment over 2 floors. A fully refurbished modern duplex apartment above an electrical shop in the very centre of Halesowen, featuring a large open plan living area with modern fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower. Rent to include £40 fixed electric charge. EPC = C

£550 PCM



### CRADLEY HEATH, MEADOW WALK

Quiet location and modern living. A fully redecorated semi detached house within a popular residential area featuring gas central heating, spacious living room, modern fitted kitchen, house bathroom, 3 bedrooms, master bedroom with en-suite shower room, rear gardens, driveway parking. EPC = D

£550 PCM



### CRADLEY HEATH, LUANNE CLOSE

Situated in a popular residential area. This top floor apartment which overlooks the canal and has its own balcony comprises 2 bedrooms, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower, access to balcony from the master bedroom, gas central heating, double glazing, allocated parking. Well worth an inspection. EPC = B

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### HALESOWEN, TENTERFIELDS

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### QUARRY BANK, EVERS STREET

Complete refurbishment. Set in a quiet residential area, within minutes of Merry Hill, local shops, buses to Merry Hill and Cradley Heath. This mid terraced house features 2 double bedrooms, 1 reception room, large kitchen, house bathroom with shower, nice sized rear garden, on road parking. EPC = D

£500 PCM



### CRADLEY HEATH, COPPICE ROAD

A two bedroom semi-detached house recently fully refurbished comprising front reception room, spacious rear lounge, fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, front and rear gardens, on road parking. EPC = C

£495 PCM



### STOURBRIDGE, PROSPECT GARDENS

Desirable Oldswinford location. Close to Stourbridge Town Centre this newly redecorated, unfurnished mid terraced house comprises 2 bedrooms, fitted dining kitchen, pleasant lounge, gas central heating, double glazing, bathroom with shower, small rear garden, parking space to front. EPC = D

£495 PCM



### CRADLEY HEATH, UNIT DRIVE

Quiet and peaceful location. Located in a quiet and popular residential area, ideal for walking into Cradley Heath and local train station. This apartment on the top floor features 1 double bedroom and 1 single bedroom, large lounge and feature fireplace, house bathroom with shower, modern kitchen with washer/dryer. Available 26/03/13. EPC = C

£475 PCM



### ROWLEY REGIS, POWKE LANE

An unfurnished first flat, close to shops and local train station featuring electric storage heating, fitted kitchen, living room, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower, ample parking. EPC = E

£475 PCM



### DUDLEY, SOUTHGATE WAY

A stunning and spacious well presented unfurnished third floor apartment featuring 2 double bedrooms, electric storage heating, double glazing, open plan living room with fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, allocated parking space. Viewings highly recommended. Available immediately. EPC = B

£450 PCM



### OLDBURY, CAUSEWAY GREEN ROAD

This large, split level flat above shops, within walking distance to bus links and close to J2 of the M5 briefly comprises gas central heating, spacious living room, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, parking to rear, unfurnished. EPC = D

£400 PCM



### NETHERTON, BAPTIST END ROAD

An unfurnished, 1st floor flat briefly comprises living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower, electric storage heating, double glazing, parking space to rear, communal garden. EPC = D

£395 PCM



### ROWLEY REGIS, WINCHESTER CLOSE

A very well presented, unfurnished first floor apartment, close to the M5 J2, comprises 2 bedrooms, fitted kitchen, lounge, double glazing, bathroom with shower, parking space and parking area for visitors, communal gardens. EPC rating = D

£395 PCM



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## Uplands Road, Dudley



EPC D

**Offers Over £110,000**

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## Queens Avenue, Tividale



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EPC D

**Offers Over £100,000**

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, conservatory, family bathroom, rear garden and off road parking.

## Hill Road, Tividale



NEW

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**Offers Over £90,000**

End terraced two bedroom property briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, bathroom, garden, garage and parking.

## Ambleside Close, Bradley



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**Offers Over £85,000**

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NEW

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## Belmont Close, Tipton



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**£75,000**

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## King Charles Road, Halesowen



EPC E

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## Fairfield Road, Halesowen



EPC D

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An extended traditional end terraced house with accommodation comprising lounge, three bedrooms, rear garden and garage. Halesowen

## Barrs Road, Cradley Heath



EPC E

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A traditional bay fronted semi detached house on a popular road briefly comprising lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms and family bathroom. Halesowen

## Albert Road, Halesowen



EPC D

**£145,000**

A three bedroom semi detached house benefiting conservatory and off road parking. The property also has a side garage. Halesowen

## Throne Road, Rowley Regis



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## Wiltshire Drive, Halesowen



EPC D

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Modern semi detached property situated in a cul-de-sac. The property comprises kitchen, three bedrooms, front and rear garden. Halesowen

## St. James Avenue, Rowley Regis



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Modern semi detached property with accommodation comprising lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, front and rear gardens. Halesowen

## Cockshed Lane, Halesowen



EPC C

**£80,000**

Split level property arranged over two floors. Briefly comprises lounge, kitchen breakfast room, three bedrooms and communal gardens. Halesowen



# Motoring

Compiled by Motoring  
Editor Sharon Walters

## Hot hatch with high performance, low price tag and is big on style

By Iain Dooley

**IMPRESSIVE performance numbers and an attractive price are two important attributes of Seat's latest Ibiza hot hatch.**

The telltale sign is the Spanish car maker's use of its trademark Cupra branding, something fans of Seat's GTI-baiting cars recognise as heralding the arrival of the firm's flagship hot supermini.

Value for money is one thing but looks can make or break a car.

Seat has cleverly chosen to give the Ibiza a relatively low-key Cupra makeover, with the regular car's already distinctive sharp lines and squat stance doing most of the work.

Plus the Cupra's low ride height, bespoke bumpers, black mirror housings, central tailpipe and LED running lights give you a classy-looking hatch that's neither brash nor a wallflower.

Seat might be keen to promote its Spanish roots but the upside of being part of the mighty Volkswagen Group is the ability to make full use of its extensive parts inven-

tory. Every so often you'll find a few gems in the parts bin, and helping the Ibiza Cupra to achieve its segment-busting performance figures is the Volkswagen Group's hi-tech 180 horsepower, 1.4-litre turbo and super-charged petrol engine.

The engine's trick is to combine the measured low-down response of the supercharger with the turbo's more immediate response at the upper end of the performance scale.

Owners of Skoda's second-generation Fabia vRS hot hatch will be familiar with this experience given that the car shares the same engine with the Ibiza.

### Reinforcing

As such, the Ibiza's 184lb/ft torque figure is accessible from a lowly 2,000rpm. And it's a contributing factor to the car's brisk 6.9 second 0-62mph sprint time.

Reinforcing the benefits of cross-company parts sharing, the Ibiza also boasts the same seven-speed DSG gearbox as the Fabia.

The upshot is a transmission adept at responding swiftly to driver inputs. Left alone, it'll quickly and smoothly shift up to a high ratio in a bid to maximise fuel economy and refinement.

However, when you want to press on, downshifts are quick and taking manual control via the steering wheel paddles

allows you to better match your speed to a gear of your choosing. Considerable effort has been made by Seat's engineers to tune the Ibiza Cupra for a variety of road conditions, and it's clear that the car's noticeably pliant ride is a welcome step forward over the old model.

That said, pitch and roll has been kept in check, allowing you to attack corners with considerable enthusiasm, with the result that your confidence remains high and you never feel tired or bruised after a session behind the wheel. Of course, the Ibiza's sports front seats can also take some of the credit.

An important factor in the Ibiza's behaviour is its steering, which delivers a good balance of weight, accuracy and assistance. Coupled with an array of trick traction and stability systems – including a clever electronic differential control – you can push the car hard, safe in the knowledge that it's working with and not against you.

Seat knows that the ownership experience is about more than just the driving, which is why the Ibiza Cupra comes with a generous level of standard kit.

Granted, you'd expect the car to possess good brakes, and the standard stoppers do the job nicely.

The optional larger diameter AP-branded

items should improve matters if you're partial to track days and routinely enjoy driving the car enthusiastically on the road.

But it's the non-performance bits that should also impress and, crucially, help sweeten the ownership experience when you're grinding your way through town on a Monday morning.

Bi-xenon headlights plus LED daytime running lights, climate control and rain-sensing wipers are joined by a bespoke multimedia system offering navigation, a Bluetooth phone connection plus audio streaming, voice control and a comprehensive trip computer.

### Handsome

It's clear, then, that the Ibiza Cupra is easily more than just the sum of its Volkswagen Group parts.

The car's handsome exterior gives little away as to its real-world performance potential.

Once behind the wheel, however, its compliant ride, responsive DSG gearbox and flexible petrol motor combine to deliver a rounded experience that belies the car's 180-on-paper horsepower rating.

Fun, engaging and refined in equal measure, Seat's generosity with a long list of standard kit is the icing on the cake.



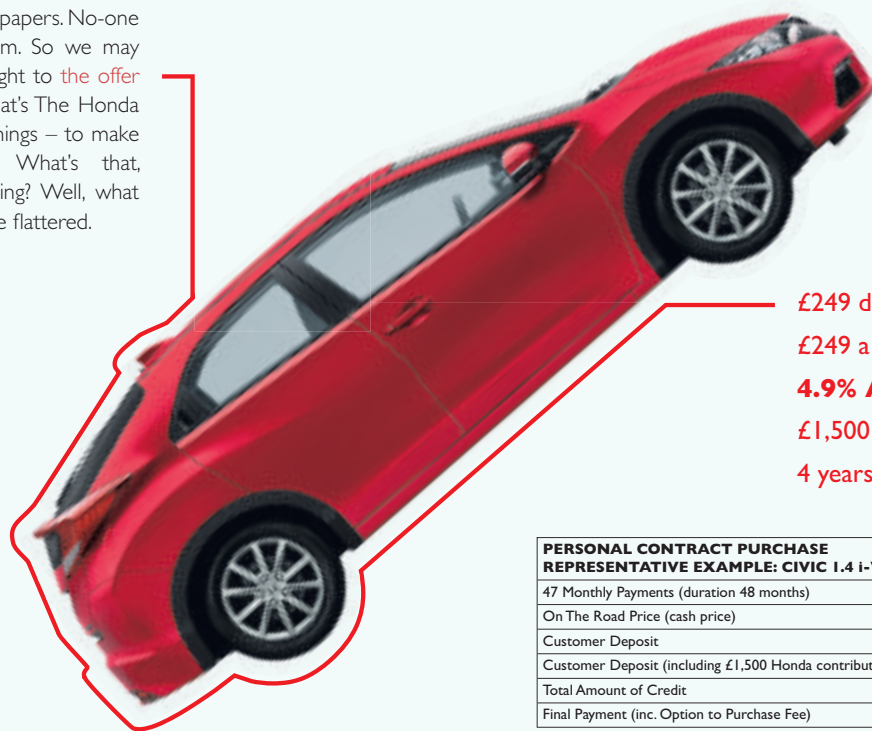
The Ibiza Cupra delivers sporting performance with a 0-62 time of 6.9 seconds

## Bumper to bumper

**Model:** Seat Ibiza Cupra, from £18,570 on the road  
**Engine:** 1.4-litre petrol unit developing 180bhp  
**Transmission:** Seven-speed DSG automatic transmission as standard, driving the front wheels  
**Performance:** Maximum speed 142mph, 0-62mph 6.9 seconds  
**Economy:** 47.9mpg  
**CO2 rating:** 139g/km

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Model shown: 13YM Civic 1.4 i-VTEC SE Manual in Milano Red at £16,955. Terms and Conditions: New retail Civic registrations (excluding Civic Ti and Civic 1.6 i-DTEC models) from 2 January 2013 to 31 March 2013. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. Deposit contribution: £1,500 Honda deposit contribution on Civic i-VTEC and 2.2 i-DTEC models. Honda Aspirations (PCP): Example shown based on annual mileage of 10,000. Excess mileage charge: 5p per mile. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage of 10,000 has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc. 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY. Servicing: Four years' servicing or 50,000 miles, whichever comes first, for £399 including VAT and includes a maximum of four manufacturer's scheduled services.



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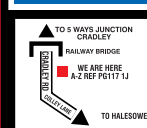
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Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (g/km). Chevrolet Spark Range: Urban 42.8 (6.6), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2), Combined 55.4 (5.1) CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 119g/km. Chevrolet Aveo Range: Urban 34.0 (8.3) - 67.2 (4.2), Extra Urban 55.3 (5.1) - 85.6 (3.3), Combined 44.8 (6.3) - 78.4 (3.6), CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 147 - 95g/km.





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**LISA** 30's tall slim beauty looking for discreet dining partner to romance, pamper and appreciate me in return for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402645

**JACKIE** busty blonde, husband away seeks no strings fun. Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box No: 400453

**ATTRACTIVE** curvy Jamaican female 37 who loves to party, cook/bake and have fun, looking for no strings adult companionship only with white male, any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393423

**MAXINE** lonely heart, fun good looking single mum with GSOH seeks gentle considerate male to try and get to know better, dads welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393329

**ALISON** slim pretty lonely divorcee looking for caring supportive man who enjoys life and is looking to share it with me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402255

**FIRST** time! Annette, passionate, loves cooking, life in general, rock music. WLTm mature male for friendship, togetherness, lc, hopefully ltr. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401851

**LIZ** 42, black, divorced, seeking male, 44-54 for kind, sincere, honest, open relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400949

**JANINE** petite cute female who loves meals in/out, romantic strolls, WLTm interesting appreciative, independent man for ltr. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400803

**JULIE** 30's female looking for some much needed lc with similar laidback intels. Likes nights in/out, socialising, romance etc. call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400487

**62YR** old female, widowed, small, slim, attractive, kind, outgoing, likes meals out, dancing, holidays, nights in, seeking professional gent. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394106

**KATHY** 38yrs, knows what she wants out of life, wltm similar genuine male to wine/dine enjoy travel, share ambitions and hopefully fall in love with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400793

**MAUREEN** seeks male 32-45 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 323543

**MONICA** 35, very attractive, gorgeous curvy figure, WLTm nice male who wants to get to know a genuine black beauty to wine, dine, romance hopefully leading to more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401837

**JULIE** cute blonde blue eyed flirty female 31, looking for laidback dates and fun times with older confident male, 40-65yrs with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401833

**JO** attractive 30's brunette who loves life, WLTm up for it male to enjoy nights in/out, weekends away, adult fun times and hopefully more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401591

**TRACY** slim blue eyed blonde, likes nights out, travel, commitment phobic, looking for understanding professional male for mutually convenient meets. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401579

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**I'M** Carol 39, slim, blonde with legs 11, passionate by nature, loves lc and looking for similar solvent male for fun times and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401467

**CHANTELLE** 40y old slim sensual confident female who loves to party, seeking older male for fun dates without complications. Any age/race. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400465

**JACKIE** lonely discreet 30's female with many interests, WLTm kind professional male to share nice times with. Status/age/looking unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400451

**GRACE** Jones lookalike, black lady, 53, 5ft 11ins, OHAC, WLTm male, 45, 65, 6ft plus for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397681

**CAROL** 37 attractive slim blonde, curves in all the right places, nice personality, good company, looking for caring fun man for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400263

**CLARE** 37 attractive slim with long dark hair and big brown eyes, WLTm genuine male who is honest, sincere and won't waste my time or break my heart. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400199

**TRACY** 26, pretty petite brunette, possibly looking for LTR but definitely looking for fun times with outgoing guy. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397027

**PAULA** 37, WLTm male companion for meals out, social drinking, weekends away, hopefully leading to a meaningful friendship with benefits! Any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398503

**MICHELLE** 39yr old nurse, slim, petite, blonde, blue eyes, looking to enjoy life with similar romantic, caring guy. Single dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398349

**CAROLINE** attractive, kind, caring, 43, seeking kind, caring male for LTR, 45-50. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396837

**NATASHA** single professional 39yr old brunette looking for fun and friendship with genuine guy, 30-50yrs. Status important. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395719

**TRISH** tall slim young/good looking GSOH, professional, solvent, OHAC, affectionate and loves lc, WLTm male who also likes to be in a loving relationship, 39-50yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397579

**CARING** lady, 52, brown hair/eyes, seeks male, 30-60 for socialising, meals out, cinema, music, sports and having a laugh. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392883

**LOVING** caring young 68yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim-medium build, size 12, smoker, seeks slim, well dressed guy with GSOH for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399923

**ANGELA** green eyed dark haired feminine lady who enjoys walking and keeping fit, seeking lonely kind gentleman for good times and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399633

**LISA** attractive blue eyed brunette, sporty, well maintained 25yr old kind student looking for older male for discreet dates. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399619

**DEBS** lonely 40's female with no lies, GSOH, N/S, loves the simple things in life looking for similar soul mate to be happy together with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399523

**HI** I'm Sharon an outgoing single mum looking to find love so thought I would give this a go, please don't make me regret it, someone call me pls. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399197

**CARLA** 41, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 2ins, loving, seeking male who likes walks, cinema and romantic meals. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396127

**SHARON** slim blonde blue eyed outgoing 30's female looking for uncomplicated meets and adult companionship, like what you hear? Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400119

**I'M** Heather I love to cook, eat in/out, share a nice fizzy glass of large wine or two with good company and am eager to hear from you. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399715

**NICKY** lonely 39yr old single mum looking for adult companionship and strictly no strings fun. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399189

**DEBBIE** sexy size 14, fun, outgoing, discreet, looking for fun times only with male over 40yrs, call to find out who. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398759

**HI** I'm Marilyn a blue eyed beauty. Call me if you have a happy outlook and are seeking some fun. Age/looks unimportant. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395665

**SUE** confident professional, sporty/active, seeking sensitive interesting guy for intimate evenings in with great food and conversations. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397485

**SARAH** 23, attractive, brunette, slim, looking for male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392379

**MARIA** French female looking for mutually convenient companionship, very friendly, very discreet and very interested in meeting with you! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397451

**LUCY** beautiful big bottomed black female, very tactile, seeks mature honest white male for loving fun times. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397389

**KATHERINE** 38, attractive, single, very lonely and looking for love, fun and male companionship, pls get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397123

**HI** I'm Natalie 24, pretty, friendly, single, seeking energetic man for romantic walks, cosy nights in and fun-loving relationship. Any age/looks/race. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397489

**TINA** young attractive 27yr old single female looking for older friendly loving male for adult fun and good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397563

**BEV** 30yr old curvy attractive female, likes music, travel, animals, cosy nights in front of a log fire, looking for affectionate male for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397535

**MICHELLE** attractive 30's female, blonde, leggy and very much single, seeking quality company, hopefully more with nice romantic male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395717

**BUBBLY** female, 42, young at heart, honest, caring, likes outdoors, cinema, theatre, meals out, seeks likeminded male/soul mate, 40-50. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 357919

**VICKY** honest caring female 33yrs, GSOH, loves meals in/out, travel, cinema, WLTm someone to enjoy nice things in life with and romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383911

**DENISE** tall leggy good looking single mum, easygoing, enjoys nights in/out, animals, WLTm tall male for fun times possibly more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391873

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**OPENMINDED** blue eyed, dark haired loving male, seeks genuine, fun loving female for nights in/out and weekends away. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402313

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**MIKE**, likes pubs, meals out, country walks, looking for nice female for friendship, maybe more.

**BE** my valentine. Romantic white male, 47, 5ft 11ins, seeks female, likes meals out, holidays, cinema and keep fit. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402243

**MALE** 45, Asian, slim, seeks female for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402213

**PHIL** 55, divorced, 5ft 10ins, slim, OHAC, seeks female, 18 plus for discreet adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401875

**COVENTRY** male, 42, 6ft 11ins, caring, romantic nature, seeks female, single mum welcome, 25-55, any nationality/Foreign for nice times in and out. Genuine replies only. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398671

**64YR** old widow, 5ft 6ins, hardworking, likes meals out, countryside, seeks female, 57-64 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401925

**MALE** 40, 6ft 2ins, blond, fit, seeks female for friendship, possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401899

**TIGER** Woods lookalike, seeking fun, scrumptious female for fun and frolics. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401737

**STEVE** 60, likes sports, meals out, seeks female with view to permanent relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401695

**VINCE** 52, caring, seeking female for fun and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401683

**40YR** old Asian male, GSOH, likes meals out, country walks, looking for English lady with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401609

**MALE** 50, genuine, honest, many interests, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394232

**MICHAEL** 50, nice eyes, seeking female companion for holidays and weekends away, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401479

**STEVE** 60, likes sports, meals out, seeks similar female for permanent relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401441

**RICHARD** 48, dark hair, brown eyes, olive skin, WLTm lady, 40-50 for LTR, size unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401431

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**IAN** tall, medium build, brown hair, blue eyes, caring, genuine, loving, tender, happy go lucky, likes music, theatre, meals out, romantic nights in, seeks similar female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401065

**DAVE** happy go lucky, sociable, seeks attractive young lady, 35-40 to pamper and cook for. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401043

**NEW** Year new start. Romantic white male, 47, 5ft 11ins, likes holidays, keep fit, music, cinema, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401013

**MALE** 39, 6ft 2ins, honest, loyal, caring nature, seeks similar female with view to permanent, loving relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400703

**FRANK** tall, distinguished 68yr old mature, professional gent, sensual, tactile, seeks similar, warm, responsive lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400967

**TALL** mature, solvent male, seeks to wine and dine younger lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401241

**KARL** 28, black hair, brown eyes, smart, 5ft 3ins, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400953

**PAUL** 52, looking for friendship, possible relationship with someone who can make me happy in 2013. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400849

**MALE** 60, 5ft 10ins, loving, caring, seeking genuine female, any age, 40-60 for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400513

**MALE** seeking blonde female, 55-60 for discreet adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400435

**COLIN** 62, divorced, many interests, GSOH, seeking slim, attractive, 50's female for companionship, maybe LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400389

## GAY SINGLES

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**MARK** 36, seeking fun, outgoing male for possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401723

**STEVE** 54 bi, non-scene, seeking guy of similar age or older for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401465

**OLDER** male, outgoing, sporty, seeking younger man for fun and friendship, slim-medium build, active, hairy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401225

**CD** 70 plus seeking CD 70 plus for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393206

**MALE** 34, attractive, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blond hair, seeks slim male for fun relationship. Any area, can travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 311892

## FRIENDS

**LADY** young 60, straight, outgoing, friendly, smart, seeks similar female friends for days/nights out, Sutton Coldfield and surrounding areas, genuine replies, car owners preferred. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397931



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**GUYS TEXT FOR FUN. SEND INDEP** followed by the box number of the person you wish to chat to and send to 68888 (T&C's below)

**SASSY** Blonde 22yrs loves fun chat. **Text INDEP 204856 to 68888**

**ADVENTUROUS** lady, ask me about myself. I'm here for you. **Text INDEP 205191 to 68888**

**SALLY** Ann hoping to chat with mature men **Text INDEP 205246 to 68888**

**NIKITA**, Russian beauty, has naughty side to her and loves to chat. **Text INDEP 205093 to 68888**

**MARILYN**, feminine petite blonde, own home and just loves to text. **Text INDEP 204910 to 68888**

**ASIAN** lady, very kind and respectful. Loves to chat to English men. **Text INDEP 204550 to 68888**

**LADY** 22yrs is interested in texting men for chats. **Text INDEP 204562 to 68888**

**SALLY** and Sophie 19yr old twins love to share everything. Call us for a chat. **Text INDEP 204614 to 68888**

**MATURE** lady, very young looking 60, curvy figure, loves to chat with younger men. **Text INDEP 204784 to 68888**

**DIVORCED** and happy lady, doesn't get out much so loves to chat with those who do. **Text INDEP 204530 to 68888**

**SUSIE**, attractive nurse, works a nightshift so free during the day. **Text INDEP 205021 to 68888**

**BORED** and lonely, home alone all day, give me something to brighten up the lonely hours. **Text INDEP 205026 to 68888**

**ASIAN** female, wants chats with white man. Interested to learn English ways. **Text INDEP 204765 to 68888**

**SINGLE** mum, kids at school all day, would love some fun chats. **Text INDEP 205285 to 68888**

**JASMINE**, exotic beauty, text me what you like and I will text back. **Text INDEP 204668 to 68888**

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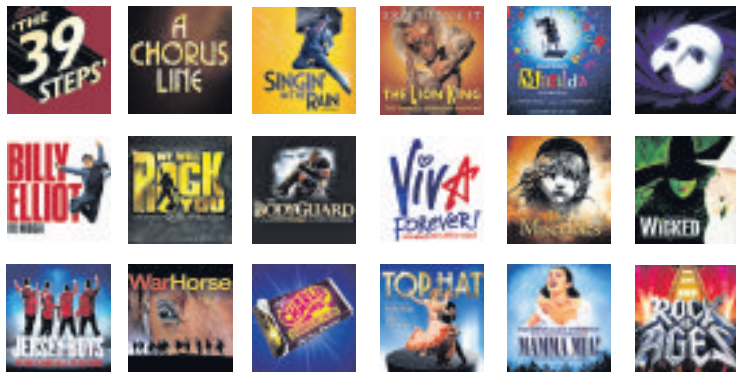
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## Hales' win sees them out of the drop zone

**Telford 2 Old Halesonians 3**  
OLD HALESONIANS men's hockey seconds timed their first away league win of the season to perfection.

They beat Telford to climb out of the relegation places and put their opponents into the bottom two.

Hales dominated the early exchanges, preying on their opponents' nervousness. Hales' excellent passing was rewarded when Graham Knight slammed the ball home.

Knight and Ash Underhill went close, but Telford levelled from a short corner. After the initial short strike was deflected, Mark Rigby's loose touch fell to a Telford forward who placed the ball past Steve Charlton in the Hales goal.

Hales re-grouped at half time. Knight claimed his second goal and Tom Durnford scored from a corner to give Hales a 3-1 lead.

Charles Palmer fired wide and Chris Hardy saw an effort saved.

Hales stepped off the gas, and Telford pulled a goal back. Hales defended for their lives for the final few minutes, and were delighted to hear the final whistle.

**Results:** Old Hales ladies firsts 2 Harborne 7; Old Hales ladies seconds 0 Barford Tigers 2; Telford 2 Old Hales thirds 4; Old Hales fourths 2 Sutton Coldfield 1; Old Hales fifths 2 Old Silhillians 1.

## Tigers win title at Old Halesonians

**Old Halesonians Ladies 2 Barford Tigers Ladies 0**

BARFORD LADIES traveled the short distance to local rivals Old Halesonians ladies seconds for what was destined to be a title-winning game for the Tigers girls.

Needing only a point to secure top place in Worcestershire Division Three and promotion in their first season, Tigers began well with wingers Roohi Faruque and Stacey Nash launching a series of attacks.

Tigers - yet to concede a goal all season - also withstood Old Hales pressure.

They opened the scoring when Nash won a penalty corner and Faruque lifted the ball into the top corner.

Barford struck again as a fine exchange of passes saw the ball fizzed across the D for Bianca Homer to sweep it first time into the net.



Steph Wem looks to cross as Halas push toward goal

# Revenge win after cup loss

**Halas Hawks Ladies 3 Redditch Ladies 1**

A HALAS team able to field only 10 players gained a remarkable revenge for their recent cup defeat to Redditch.

Halas secured all three Birmingham County Premier Division points, despite falling behind.

It was always going to be a difficult encounter for a side weakened by injuries.

Halas were under pressure from the whistle, but were kept in the game by the woodwork and several crucial saves from Gemma Scriven. But Redditch took a deserved lead following some indecision in the Halas defence.

## Halas Hawks

Kicking down the slope in the second half, Halas came more into the game and, following a Katie Monk corner, Sam Whittaker crowned a fine display with a headed equaliser.

The next goal was crucial and it went to Halas when a long distance shot from Tracey Haycock looped into the top corner.

Further chances were made by both teams but the game was made safe when Tash Berry put Haycock through to score her second goal.

**Halas Hawks U17 Girls 0 Stourbridge U17 Girls 2**  
**Stourbridge U17 Girls 0 Halas Hawks U17 Girls 1**

Halas Hawks did surprisingly well in this double-header against Stourbridge. It was only their second outing of the year, but they passed the ball with confidence and looked dangerous.

Halas lost the first game 2-0. However, their heads did not drop and they emerged as winners in the second encounter with a well-taken goal from Kate Drew. Halas player of the match was Dulce Williams, a constant threat down the left.

## Powell is a star in defeat for Halas

### Halas Hawks

**Boys League West Hagley U9 1 Halas Hawks U9 East 0**  
HALAS were edged out 1-0 after a tight first half saw the hosts get the only goal.

The second half continued in similar vein, with few chances. Halas player of the match was Tom Powell.

**Kingsley Olympic U9 West 2 Halas Hawks U9 West 1**

West led as Jack Blakeway scored in the top corner but the home side equalised shortly afterwards.

A wonder save from Kingsley's keeper prevented Halas from regaining the lead but in the second half, Kingsley scored after a fine passing move to win.

William Smith, in defence for the first time, was the Halas player of the match.

**Halas Hawks U10 West 0 Withymoor Colts U10 West 0**

An evenly-fought contest was settled by Halas' top scorer, Harvey Brookes.

Altrin Alshiqi was their player of the match for a competitive performance in the middle of the park.

**Halas Hawks U11 East 3 Wordsley Wasps U11 South 3**

A late Halas goal gave them a share of the points.

Wordsley led only for Halas to level immediately through Charlie Greening.

The visitors were 3-1 up at the break, but two Oliver Miller strikes squared it.

**Halesowen Town Colts U14 2 Halas Hawks U14 3**

Halas won against a very good Halesowen side after both sides gave their all and played some good football.

Halas led through Cameron Milne until early in the second half when Halesowen levelled from the spot. Cain Brissett prodded home from close range for Halas, but again Halesowen equalised. Halas won as Shane Billingham scored.

Player of the match was keeper Daniel Johnson.

**Ettingshall Juniors U15 1 Halas Hawks U15 7**

An early Halas goal set the tone and they led 3-1 at half-time with two goals from Dominic Hipkiss and a penalty from Dillon Mullan.

Player of the match Hipkiss completed a hat-trick as goals came from Adam Higginson, Charlie Bagley and Jack Guest.

**Netherton Colts U16 0 Halas Hawks U16 2**

Goals from Dan Willetts and Mitchell Tomlinson took Halas into the semi-final of the league cup.

## Chelsea 1 Albion 0

**IF ALBION had to suffer a 40-point hangover, perhaps Stamford Bridge was as good a place as any to do it.**

Now the Baggies have to blow away the cobwebs quickly and find a new focus for what remains of a fabulous season, writes Steve Madeley. For Steve Clarke, a losing return to his spiritual football home made for a frustrating weekend. But the Hawthorns boss and Albion fans can surely forgive their players a lapse just seven days after hitting their primary pre-season target with three months to spare.

Without ever fully tapping into the potency that made them European champions less than a year ago, the Blues showed enough power and drive to see off Clarke's men with relative ease, despite the scoreline suggesting a somewhat closer encounter.

### Agitated

Yet for Albion fans, there was a lingering feeling of disappointment that their side had not pushed Chelsea just a little harder and given the critical home supporters something to really boo about.

With agitated home boss Rafael Benitez the inevitable leading man and his players and their fans cast in key supporting roles, the Baggies were always destined to be merely extras in the latest instalment of the Chelsea soap opera. But Clarke and the travelling Baggies fans might have left wondering whether their side could have done just a fraction more.

There was more than enough endeavour, especially in a closely-fought final half-hour, to ensure Clarke's men left the capital with positives to carry into important fixtures ahead. There was, however, just a nagging sense that the intensity that had crept back into their game in recent weeks was missing for long spells as the Blues were rarely required to switch into top gear.

Albion never quite got to grips with the



Marc-Antoine Fortune and Frank Lampard contest the midfield at Stamford Bridge

impish movement of the Chelsea midfield, with precocious Brazilian Oscar especially lively to force impressive Baggies keeper Ben Foster into several excellent saves. Nor did they treasure the ball sufficiently to trouble the Blues backline with real quality.

That left Shane Long often cutting a lonely figure in attack and feeding off scraps, with the Irishman only receiving regular support once controversial striker Peter Odemwingie stepped off the bench in the final half-hour.

If Long had to toil for a part in the game, Foster had no such trouble as he was tested frequently in front of England boss Roy Hodgson days after ending his international sabbatical. He twice denied Oscar in the early stages, blocking a close-range shot superbly before making a routine stop from a header.

But, after opposite number Petr Cech had

kept out a Steven Reid thunderbolt, Foster blotted his copybook as the Blues went ahead. Having pulled off another good save to concede a corner, he misjudged Oscar's far-post cross from a short flag-kick; Gareth McAuley failed to stop David Luiz heading across goal and Demba Ba turned the ball home.

Chelsea continued to hold the upper hand after the interval with Eden Hazard screaming for a penalty after tangling with Jonas Olsson. But the hosts could not find the killer second goal, meaning Cech's instinctive stop to prevent a Cesar Azpilicueta own-goal was a scary moment for Benitez.

Ultimately, however, the Baggies paid the price for a tame first half and Chelsea claimed a victory that, in spite of a tense final half-hour, was considerably more comfortable than the single-goal winning margin suggested.

## Yeltz star duo continue the unbeaten run

**Rainworth 0 Halesowen Town 2**

HALESOWEN TOWN put in another fine performance in Nottinghamshire. They continued the excellent run which took them into March unbeaten. So assured were they on Saturday that Halesowen goalkeeper Paul Evans didn't have a shot to save.

The Yeltz showed signs of their intent on only two minutes when man-of-the-match Joe Hull had a header cleared off the line.

They always looked dangerous in the first half with top goalscorer Ben Haseley and Luke Corbett linking up well. It was Haseley who outstripped the home defence on 22 minutes to set up Jean-Michel Gueyes to score from six yards out.

Halesowen went further ahead on 43 minutes when Corbett set up skipper Neil Barnfield, who finished to make it two.

There was still time before the break for Haseley and Gueyes to combine in a flowing move with the latter lobbing the goalkeeper but seeing the ball hit the bar. After the break there wasn't much goal-mouth action as Halesowen easily contained the home side.

Another good display at Rainworth for both Haseley and Gueyes could bring further interest in the Yeltz's star men.

Haseley has 30 goals to his credit despite not finding the net on Saturday, while Gueyes has been the subject of interest from non-league top-flight side Tamworth.

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## Revenge

Halas bounce back after cup reversal  
**Page 39**



## Bridge too far

Bland Baggies fall to Chelsea defeat  
**Page 39**



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## Clarke's fears on fitness of Brunt

ALBION are sweating on the fitness of Chris Brunt for Saturday's clash with Swansea after the captain pulled out of training again. The winger sat out Saturday's defeat at Chelsea with an ankle ligament injury picked up in the victory over Sunderland at The Hawthorns.

And the Northern Ireland international was forced to abort an attempted return to training on Monday.

Boss Steve Clarke said: "We thought Chris would train yesterday but he trained on Monday and still felt something. We have our fingers crossed."

"He and Shane Long both twisted their ankles against Sunderland. Shane was still feeling a bit on Saturday at Chelsea but he's OK."

Clarke revealed that a number of other Baggies players are nursing minor injuries but all are expected to be fit to face the Swans.

"Claudio Jacob has a knock and hasn't trained, but should be OK," said the Hawthorns head coach. Steven Reid has a knock and hasn't trained this week but should also be OK.

"Jonas didn't train on Monday, but trained on Tuesday and Youssef Mulumbu had a migraine but he's fine now."

"Hopefully, everyone will be fine."

Meanwhile, Clarke has repeated his reluctance to allow Jerome Thomas out on loan despite continued interest from Blackburn manager Michael Appleton. Clarke said: "The size of the squad dictates everything for us."

"I would be very, very, very surprised if any senior players left the squad now."

## Tough test for Tigers

BARFORD TIGERS hockey club have a big day on Sunday.

They begin their defence of the England Hockey Mixed Plate title they won last season with a tough home game against Hampton at Hamstead Hall School (noon).

Then at 2pm the club's over-40s team tackle Bristol side Robinsons Veterans in the quarter-finals of the England Hockey Masters Cup.

Several former and current internationals will be taking part.

**Title win - Page 39**



Jordanne Whitley on her way to all four tennis titles

## Ace! Four titles for Jordanne

JORDANNE WHITLEY made it four titles from two tournaments this year after winning both the women's singles and doubles titles at the North-East tournament in Sunderland.

Halesowen's British No.2 justified her top seeding as she followed up victory at the North-West Challenge by claiming her second North-East title and the second ITF 2 Series singles title of her career.

Whitley faced familiar opposition in Sunderland, beating the same two French players she faced at the North-West Challenge. After a bye into the

### Wheelchair tennis

semi-finals, she eased past third seed Emilie Chene 6-1, 6-1 to move into a title decider against the second-seeded Christine Schoenn. Whitley won five games in succession to take the opener and then held off Schoenn in a tough second set to prevail 6-2, 7-5.

The London 2012 Paralympics women's doubles bronze medallist then took her tally of ITF 2 Series doubles titles to eight, partnering 17-year-old Lauren Jones.

The two - finalists at last October's

Nottingham Indoor in their first tournament together - defeated fellow Britons Debbie Brazier and Val Fisher 6-0, 6-1 in the semi-final. The final brought familiar opposition in Chene and Schoenn, but the top seeds eased through to a 6-1, 6-2 victory.

"I can't ask for much more than two singles and two doubles titles from my first two tournaments of 2013, so I'm very pleased," said Whitley.

"Christine put me under pressure in the second set in the singles, but I came through it and will go back to training happy."



Shannie Jennings with the ball for Halesowen

# YELTZ RUN HALTED BY RED CARD BLOW

### Halesowen Town 1 Belper Town 3

**HALESOWEN battled hard but were unable to overcome the early blow of being reduced to 10 men, defeat snapping their run of seven successive league victories.**

Play-off rivals Belper took an early lead on Tuesday night and extended their own long unbeaten sequence. With plenty at stake in a needle Evo-Stik North Division One South match, Belper's Jon Froggatt struck just wide on the turn in the second minute. But the pivotal moment arrived after just 13 minutes with Halesowen falling behind to a penalty and reduced to 10 men with a red card for Brendan Kelly.

After home goalkeeper Paul Evans failed to claim Simon Harrison's high free-kick, Richard Adams fired the loose ball towards goal.

### Handball

The ball struck Kelly's body in his attempt to clear the danger on the line with the defender's hands down against his side. However, referee Scott Postin awarded a penalty for handball and had no option but to send off Kelly.

Evans managed to get a good hand to the resulting penalty, but Froggatt's spot-kick trickled into the net.

The Yeltz made an immediate tactical substitution with wide man Jean Michel Gueyes sacrificed in favour of Tom Warner.

Halesowen responded well as captain Neil Barnfield intercepted in midfield after 26 minutes to set up Luke Corbett, but he went for glory and screwed his shot wide of goal.

Aaron Griffiths then curled a fine 30th-minute free-kick from edge of the

### Halesowen Town

area towards the near corner but goalkeeper Aaron Chapman clawed the ball away for a corner. For the visitors, Glyn Cotton hit a long range effort past the post two minutes later.

The Nailers extended the lead after 39 minutes when centre-half Shaun Roulston powered home a free header from Harrison's corner.

Ten-man Halesowen never gave up in a brave second-half performance and in the 48th minute substitute Warner's long free-kick was just turned around the post by Chapman. Five minutes later Ben Haseley worked his way between two defenders before lobbing onto the top of the bar.

Halesowen went close again after a break from Warner and Haseley led to Mitchell Botfield turning to shoot wide from a 78th-minute corner. Shaun Tuton struck in the 79th minute to make it safe for Belper.

A crazy end to the game saw Haseley win two penalties for the Yeltz within three minutes. Haseley was hauled down by Roulston for the first penalty but Chapman saved with his legs as Haseley fired his spot-kick. Two minutes later, Haseley was brought down again. This time Corbett fired the penalty home.

## Old Hales clinch promotion with double win



The Old Halesonians defence looks to stand firm during their promotion drive from the MRHA Midlands Premier

OLD HALESONIANS men's hockey firsts clinched promotion to Midlands Division One with a double victory.

Old Hales needed a win and a draw from their weekend double-header - and did the job in style.

They won 3-1 at home to Tamworth on Saturday before romping to a 5-1 success at Old Silhillians the following day.

### Old Hales 3 Tamworth 1

Hales started Saturday's game in frenetic fashion. The fast end-to-end play meant Hales' defence had to be on guard, with goalkeeper Alex Fraser making a couple of penalty corner saves.

At the other end, the breakthrough came thanks to some good umpiring. Paul Woodall's winding run ended when he was fouled close to goal, but an excellent advantage allowed Tom

Bulteel to score. Bulteel added a second. His initial shot was saved, but he forced home the rebound.

In the second half, Chris Hill's hard cross was met by a diving Woodall and his deflected shot made it 3-0.

Tamworth grabbed a consolation goal in the final few minutes.

**Old Silhillians 1 Old Halesonians 5**

Hales, now needing just a point to leave MRHA Midlands Premier, made just the start they wanted by scoring within minutes. A penalty corner was converted by injector Paul Harold and signalled the start of a hammering.

Hales scored three more within 20 minutes, to take a 4-0 lead.

Hill deflected a Bulteel cross into the net for his first goal of the game and swiftly added a second. He made a winding run which tore the home defence apart. Hales added a fourth

when Bulteel capped a fine run by lashing his shot above the goalkeeper's head.

Old Silhillians responded and started to press Hales. The home team won a string of penalty corners but were unable to convert.

Hales lost defender Mark Curzon, who was struck in the face. A later x-ray gave him the all-clear.

In the second half, Hales found themselves on the back foot with their shuffled defence - Bulteel now at right-back - under pressure.

Old Silhillians got a goal back, but Hales promptly grabbed their fifth through Harry Hughes.

The final whistle was met with celebrations as the win guaranteed Hales second place in MRHA West Midlands Premier and promotion.

**More hockey - Page 39**

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